

ADVANCING
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Leadership, innovation, collaboration
for state Aging and Disability agencies

ARPA HCBS Funding: Health and Welfare Opportunities

December 8, 2021

Background: HCBS Health and Welfare

CMS/ACL/OIG released a report on HCBS health and welfare that found:

- Ensuring all critical incidents are reported
- Properly recording all reported incidents
- Ensuring incidents were reported at the correct severity level
- Collecting and reviewing all data on critical incidents
- Ensuring all reasonable suspicions of abuse or neglect were reported

The report listed four key components of health and safety in HCBS:

- Reliable incident management and investigation processes
- Audit protocols that ensure compliance with reporting, review, and response requirements
- Effective mortality reviews of unexpected deaths
- Quality assurance mechanisms that ensure the delivery and fiscal integrity of appropriate community-based services.

Background: ARPA and HCBS

ARPA HCBS Funding

- 10% increase to HCBS FMAP (federal share of Medicaid)
- States must use increased funds to enhance/strengthen HCBS
- CMS required states to submit spending plans describing how the funding will be used

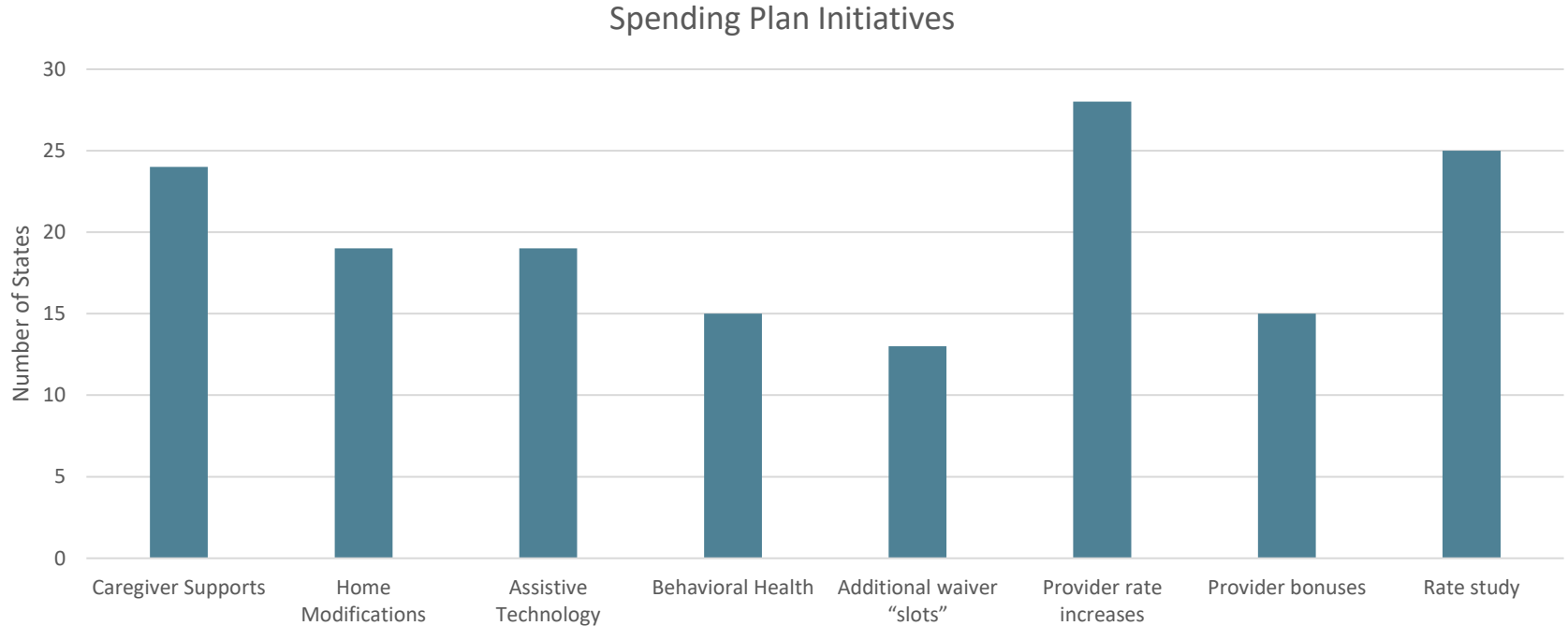
Current Status

- 51 plans submitted (50 states + DC)
- 41 states with “partial approval”
- 7 states with “conditional approval”
- 3 states with request for more information

Summary of Plans

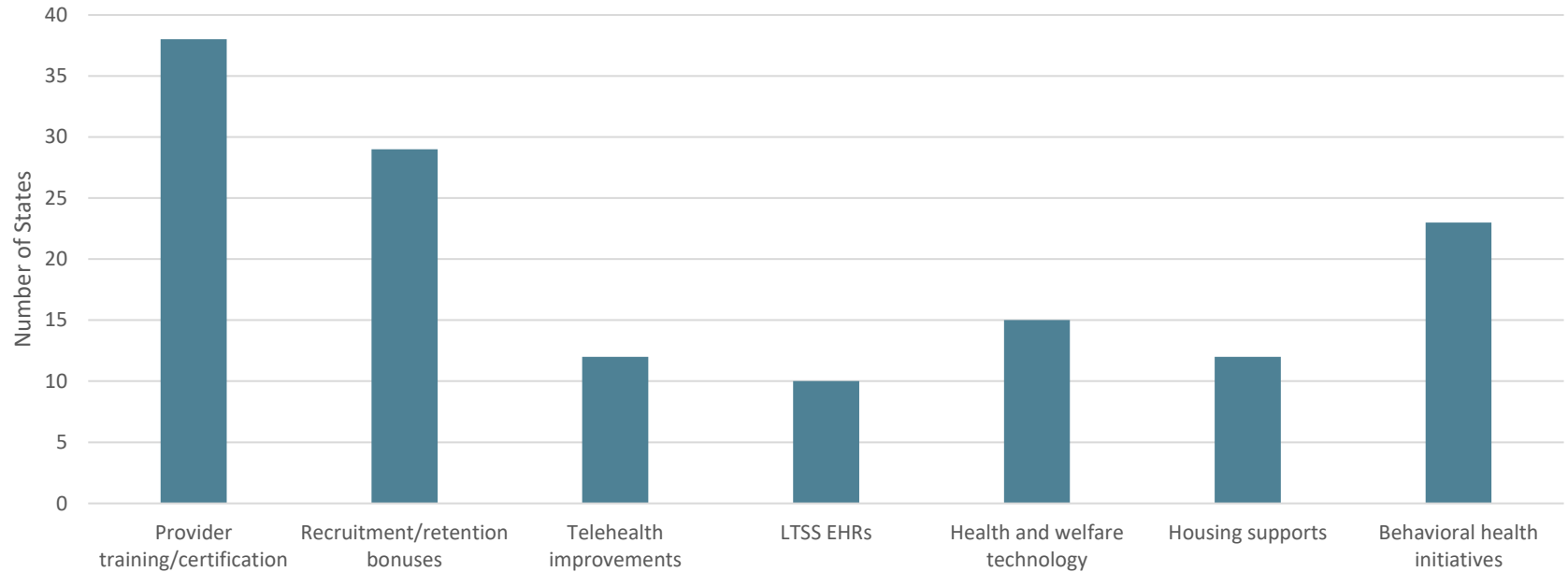
- Compilation of all plans:
<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/home-community-based-services/guidance/strengthening-and-investing-home-and-community-based-services-for-medicaid-beneficiaries-american-rescue-plan-act-of-2021-section-9817-spending-plans-and-narratives/index.html>
- Analysis of plans available at:
<http://www.advancingstates.org/policy/federal-advocacy/advocacy-alerts/advancing-states-releases-analysis-state-hcbs-spending-plans>

Summary of Plans



Summary of Plans

Spending Plan Initiatives



Health and Welfare in ARPA

HCBS Plans (examples)

- Invest in improvements and upgrades to Delaware's critical incident management information technology system (DE)
- Additional training and support for adult protective service workers and cross-training of all staff in adult protective service (KY)
- Implement an online reporting system for incidents that can make sure all necessary parties for assessment, investigation and response are notified and have the same information (WV)
- Modernize its platform for service planning, provider management, and critical incident reporting (WY)

Adult Protective Services

- Unlike CPS, no dedicated federal funding
- Sole federal \$ come from SSBG or OAA
- ACL role:
 - Federal home for APS
 - National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System
 - Voluntary Consensus Guidelines

ARPA: Historic Investments in APS

- \$86M awarded to states in 8/2021
 - States required to submit Initial Spend Plan
 - States required to create 3-5 year Operational Plan by 1/31/22
- APS Technical Assistance Resource Center
 - Currently providing intensive TA to states
- Additional \$100M available in FY 2022

40 Plans: Common Priorities

- Services for clients
- Technology investments incl. equipment
- Training
- Staffing
- Contract expertise

Services for Clients

- Emergency/Temporary **Housing** (greatest need)
- Utility, rent assistance, minor home repair
- Deep cleaning, pest eradication, moving assistance
- Domestic goods, clothing, and provisions
- Food, medications, DME, transportation
- In-home care, respite, transition of care support
- Case management, mental health services
- Legal services, guardianship

Technology

- Enhance current case management system
 - Incl. creating common assessment tool online
 - Incl. a structure decision-making tool online
- Create/improve online reporting
- Data & program analytics; improve NAMRS reporting
- Support remote work; IT support for staff
- Improve interoperability between other state agencies
- Common portal to connect with stakeholders (e.g. financial)
- Develop mobile applications; update website

Training

- Create/update standardized curriculum for existing staff, recently hired staff, supervisors; update manuals
 - Make curriculum available online on-demand
- Specialized training: financial exploitation, diversity & equity, dementia, evidence collection, supported decision-making, person-centered planning, capacity, undue influence
- Send staff to NAPSA conference, provide statewide & regional conferences; NAPSA certification for staff
- Train community partners, law enforcement, mandated reporters, cross-train state agency staff

Staffing

- Hire temporary staff: staff trainer, community outreach trainer, project manager, grant writer, data specialist, support for closing older cases, QA, admin support
- Retention bonuses, hazard pay, overtime, raises
- Support regional staff meetings; pay for notary services
- Stipends to college students who commit to the field
- For service plan follow-up; support intake process
- To review regulations, statutes

Contract Expertise

- ACL requested states dedicate money to create Operational Plan, majority hiring consultants to do so
- Other expertise needed: draft regulations, develop training curriculum, revise structured decision-making tool, data analytics, NAMRS data compliance
- Forensic accounting
- Capacity/psychiatric assessments
- Creation of MDTs

Notable Others

- QA activities
- Tribal partnerships
- Multi-Disciplinary Team expansion
- Direct support to county APS
- Vehicles
- PPE

Opportunities

- To better connect Medicaid, Aging Services and APS:
 - 3-5 year Operational Plan (be involved)
 - Interoperability of technology
 - Services
 - Cross-training of staff

Takeaways

- There remains a disconnect between APS and Medicaid Health & Welfare processes
- State H&W infrastructure development focuses on the IT systems
- Opportunities exist to both enhance APS and strengthen HCBS health and welfare
- Formal engagement and agreements regarding collaboration, roles, & responsibilities an important first step



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