



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/Business Operations
Please do not reply to this message

TRANSMITTAL DATE: 07/27/2015

**TOPIC: AHCCCS Community Forum Regarding
Arizona's Plan for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Home and
Community Based Services (HCBS) Rules**

To: All Qualified Vendors- Please Distribute

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is hosting forums to obtain public input on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) final rule for home and community based services (HCBS). The purpose of the rule is to ensure individuals receiving HCBS are integrated into their communities and have full access to the benefits of community living. These requirements impact individuals in the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCSS) receiving services in residential and non-residential settings such as assisted living facilities, group homes, adult day health, day treatment and training, and center-based employment programs.

AHCCCS will review its draft assessment of the state's current compliance and a draft transition plan for meeting compliance standards for all settings. AHCCCS is seeking input from stakeholders including members and their families, advocates and providers. The draft assessment and transition plan will be available on the AHCCCS website (www.azahcccs.gov/HCBS) on or before August 1, 2015.

As part of the public comment period, AHCCCS will disseminate surveys to randomly selected members and providers to further assess a baseline of the state's assessment and how the rules might currently be employed in practice. The survey responses will be anonymous.

[Attached is a flyer](#) with a schedule of the statewide public forums [along with a brief overview and background of the new rules.](#)

Questions related to this communication may be sent to: DDDProviderRelations@azdes.gov

Thank you



AHCCCS Community Forum RE:

Arizona's Plan for the CMS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Rules

Purpose

AHCCCS is hosting forums to obtain public input on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) final rules for home and community based services (HCBS). The purpose of the rule is to ensure individuals receiving HCBS are integrated into their communities and have full access to the benefits of community living. These requirements impact individuals in the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCs) receiving services in residential and non-residential settings such as assisted living facilities, group homes, adult day health, day treatment and training, center-based employment programs, etc. AHCCCS will review its draft assessment of the state's current compliance and a draft transition plan for meeting compliance standards for all settings. AHCCCS is seeking input from stakeholders including members and their families, advocates and providers. The draft assessment and transition plan will be available on the AHCCCS website (www.azahcccs.gov/HCBS) on or before August 1, 2015.

To RSVP and Request an Accommodation

Please RSVP as space is limited:

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, with the RSVP. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

HCBS@azahcccs.gov • 1-888-833-4002, Ext. 6024174203

Locations	Dates
Phoenix Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) 5025 E Washington St, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85034	Session 1: Wednesday, August 5, 2015 12:30-2:30 PM Session 2: Wednesday, August 5, 2015 3:00-5:00 PM
Show Low Hon-Dah Casino - Conference Room 777 Hwy 260, Pinetop, AZ 85935	Session 1: Thursday, August 6, 2015 10:00-12:00 PM
Prescott Valley Prescott Valley Public Library - Auditorium 7401 E Civic Circle, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314	Session 1: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 1:00-3:00 PM
Yuma Regional Center for Border Health, 2 nd floor Conference Room 214 W Main Street, Somerton, AZ 85350	Session 1: Thursday, August 20, 2015 1:00-3:00 PM
Flagstaff Flagstaff Medical Center - McGee Auditorium 1200 N Beaver St, Flagstaff, AZ 86001	Tribal Consultation: Friday, August 21, 2015 10:00-12:00 PM
Tucson Casino Del Sol - Ballroom Room B 5655 W Valencia Rd, Tucson, AZ 85757	Session 1: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 1:00-3:00 PM

Public Input

Comments and questions will be taken at the meeting but can also be submitted by

Email: HCBS@azahcccs.gov

Mail: AHCCCS

c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, Mail Drop 4200, Phoenix, AZ 85034

More information is available on the website at:

www.azahcccs.gov/HCBS



Background

On January 16, 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released final rules regarding requirements for home and community based services (HCBS) operated under section 1915 of the Social Security Act. The rules mandate certain requirements for alternative residential or community settings where Medicaid beneficiaries receive long term care services and supports. Specifically, the rules establish requirements for settings to ensure that individuals receiving services are integrated into their communities and have full access to the benefits of community living.

While the AHCCCS HCBS program is operated under section 1115 of the Act, CMS is requiring compliance with those regulations for all long-term care home and community based settings. To that end, AHCCCS has established a plan for meeting those standards on a timeline consistent with its 1115 Waiver renewal submission (effective October 2016). In Arizona, these requirements impact the residential placements (e.g. assisted living homes, assisted living centers, group homes, etc.) for members enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care Services (ALTCS) program. The new rules also impact programs (adult day health, day treatment and training, center-based employment and group supported employment) where ALTCS members receive services during the day.

Arizona's Systemic Assessment and Transition Plan:

AHCCCS conducted a preliminary assessment of Arizona's HCBS settings to determine its level of compliance, provide recommendations for identified variances, and outline a process for continuous monitoring. The assessment process included a review of statutes, rules, policies and contract language.

AHCCCS will publish its draft assessment of Arizona's HCBS settings and the draft transition plan to seek public comment on or before August 1, 2015. The public comment period will be for the month of August (August 1 – 31, 2015). AHCCCS will host a round of public forums throughout the state. As part of the public comment period, AHCCCS will disseminate surveys to randomly selected members and providers to further assess a baseline of the state's assessment and how the rules might currently be employed in practice. The survey responses will be anonymous.

After consideration of public comment, AHCCCS will submit its final assessment and transition plan to CMS for approval. AHCCCS will have 5 years to come into compliance with the rules under the Transition Plan. During the 5-year transition period, AHCCCS will work with a variety of stakeholders to implement the plan. Additionally, AHCCCS will be working collaboratively with the MCOs to ensure providers are adequately oriented and trained on their respective roles and responsibilities in ensuring members have full access to the benefits of community living.

For more information on the Home and Community-Based Setting Rules and the requirements for State Medicaid Programs, please visit <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Long-Term-Services-and-Supports/Home-and-Community-Based-Services/Home-and-Community-Based-Services.html>

For more information on Arizona's compliance with the Home and Community-Based Setting Rules and the requirements for State Medicaid Programs, please visit www.azahcccs.gov/hcbs