



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

### DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

## ARPA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTED PAYMENTS

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 03/21/2022

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 into law. Section 9817 of the ARPA provides qualifying states with a temporary increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures for home and community-based services (HCBS).

AHCCCS received federal approval to allocate one-time funding to recruit and retain a knowledgeable and well-trained workforce as part of its spending plan submission. Maintaining and strengthening the direct care workforce through time-limited payments to providers is the most straightforward strategy to incentivize workers to enter or remain in the workforce. This funding is intended to assist Qualified Vendors retain and recruit direct care staff.

This funding will be distributed to Qualified Vendors in two payments, the first in April 2022 and the second in July 2022, contingent upon completing an attestation. Qualified Vendors must attest that they will distribute a minimum of 80% of the ARPA Directed Payments to direct support professionals and their direct supervisors. The remaining 20% of the ARPA Directed Payments do not have any requirements and can be used for expenses related to upcoming system enhancement and implementations such as WellSky claims system, AHCCCS QM Portal, and new RFQVA changes. Additional information and more details about the requirements and restrictions on how these funds can be used are available on the [Division's website](#).

The Division will send an electronic attestation to all Qualified Vendors using the Adobe Sign service. Qualified Vendors should expect to receive an email from [adobesign@adobesign.com](mailto:adobesign@adobesign.com) with a link to the attestation for completion. The Division will not process a Qualified Vendor's payments until it has received the signed attestation for that Qualified Vendor. Please submit any questions about these payments or the attestation to [DDDBusinessOperationsComments@azdes.gov](mailto:DDDBusinessOperationsComments@azdes.gov).