



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 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CLARIFICATION

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 05/03/2022

As [communicated on March 21, 2022](#), AHCCCS received federal approval to allocate one-time funding to recruit and retain a knowledgeable and well-trained workforce as part of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending plan. 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.

A “Direct Support Professional” (DSP) is defined as a person who is hired to explicitly perform and deliver Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) directly to DDD members, for whom the Qualified Vendor appropriately submits claims to the Division for payment. This includes employees and subcontractors delivering direct support to DDD members. For developmental home services this specifically includes developmental home providers.

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 deadline to complete the attestation is May 13, 2022. Failure to complete the attestation may result in forfeiture of funds. If your agency has not received the attestation form please reach out to DDDBusinessOperationsComments@azdes.gov.

Please submit any questions about these payments or the attestation to DDDBusinessOperationsComments@azdes.gov.