

Home Care Supports for Pause Program

FAQs updated 12/3/2020

Eligible Uses of Funds

Q. Is this funding for HHA and CNA only? No nurses or therapists, correct?

A. Correct – only CNAs and homemakers

Q. Does this grant covers the HBTS, PASS and EI Programs?

Q. Can this cover HBTS/ABA direct care workers that are still in homes?

A. CNAs and homemakers who work for eligible home health agencies are eligible for these supports regardless of which program they are working for. Other BHDDH funded programs may provide supports for these programs as well.

Q. With hospitals at or near capacity and alternate care sites now in use, with patient through-put stagnating 2/2 lack of availability and access to care post acute care, WHY is there NO provision for those Medicaid recipients receiving Skilled levels of care?

Q. Why is the requirement for CNAs/homemakers rather than skilled nursing workers?

A. This is in alignment with the funding going to congregate care settings. The goal of this program is to provide assistance to direct care workers in most need, which the state is identifying as those making under \$25/ hour.

Q. The eligible uses of funds has changed significantly from the first round of this program– why is that?

A. This additional funding needs to be disbursed by 12/30 and is specifically designed to support direct care workers through the second wave of the pandemic. The State's goal is to give providers the flexibility to use the funding where they believe it is most needed within the guidelines of the program.

Q. Do we need to utilize these funds for hours provided just during the two week pause?

A. Timing is not specific to the pause period. Funds may be used for payroll supports for work performed during the period December 1 to December 30. Funds must be distributed as payroll support for hours worked prior to 12/30. Funds may be included in 2021 paychecks so long as they are tied back to hours worked through December 30, 2020.

Q. Can we do a flat bonus to employees?

A. Yes lump sum payroll supports to employees are allowed.

Q. We have many CNA's who have worked through this whole pandemic and many are out now due to exposure. Can we include them?

A. No, according to the guidance the intention is that this is for payroll support for employees in actively working with patients during the month of December.

Award Amounts

Q. Who do we contact if the hours shown are incorrect?

A. Please send an email to OHHS.LTSSResiliency@ohhs.ri.gov with your specific question.

Q. We have a small percentage of medicaid hours, therefore getting a very small amount of money that will not help the staff in general if this is distribute globally.

A. Unfortunately this was the information we used to size the awards. Additional assistance may be available from other state or federal sources.

Q. How will we find out our final award amount?

A. We will issue cover letters to everyone as soon as possible. That letter will contain a notice of the exact award amount you will be receiving.

Payment Timing

Q. When would we receive the approved funds? It seems like we have to spend it fast, like within two weeks.

A. Our intention is to issue funds the week of December 14.

Q. We have only 2 pay periods left.

Q. You're stating that this is for work done in Dec. However, if we use it for an incentive for hiring, how would we structure that?

A. Payroll can be issued after 12/30, but payments but must be for hours worked on or before 12/30. For providers who issue payroll checks to workers in arrears, checks may be issued to workers in January 2021 as long as the hours covered by that payroll check were worked prior to or on December 30, 2020

Reporting

Q. When will we get the reporting template required?

A. The state is working on the reporting template and will send out as soon as possible. It is our intention to keep the reporting simple.