

American Rescue Plan Act

Helping to enhance, expand, and strengthen states' home and community-based services

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides states with a temporary 10 percent increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures to enhance, expand, or strengthen home and community-based services (HCBS). States are permitted to use state funds equivalent to the amount of federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP through March 31, 2025. While states have broad flexibility in the use of the funds, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) strongly encourages states to use the funds to implement structural changes to:

- ✓ Expand eligibility and increase access to HCBS for all Medicaid beneficiaries, including those on waiting lists for HCBS waiver programs, children with disabilities, and people with behavioral health conditions
- ✓ Offer a broader range of community-based services, particularly for people with behavioral health conditions
- ✓ Make long-term investments in HCBS infrastructure, including capital investments to expand access to non-disability specific settings as part of a state's implementation of the home and community-based settings regulation
- ✓ Offer TA assistance including phone line, email, and webinars
- ✓ Support compliance with the home and community-based settings regulatory criteria and promote community integration
- ✓ Strengthen the direct service workforce, including by increasing the pay and benefits of direct support professionals
- ✓ Address social determination of health and improve equity for older adults and people with disabilities

How can Public Consulting Group (PCG) help?

PCG's ARPA offerings include:

Spending Plan Administration

- Develop and document processes to ensure compliance with ARPA project requirements
- Define and design quarterly spending plan reports and semi-annual narrative submissions to CMS
- Identify and develop measurable outcomes

Next Step Planning

- Evaluate grant project outcomes
- Develop recommendations for large-scale pilot(s)
- Evaluate feasibility of large-scale/statewide implementation of successful grant project outcomes

Grants Management

- Develop grant application portal, scoring rubric, application, and other grant tools
- Provide communications and technical assistance, including Zendesk
- Review and monitor applicant reports, and track and review applicant performance data
- Manage payment distribution

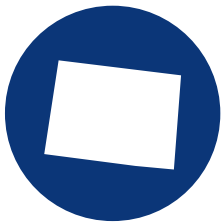
Why partner with PCG?

Our team has extensive experience supporting HCBS ARPA grants projects across the country. Ask us about our recent successful HCBS projects for:



Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) | HCBS ARPA Project Management and Technical Support

PCG collaborated with the state to design the form and process for quarterly expenditure reporting and semi-annual narrative reporting to CMS for each of the state's activities identified in their HCBS spending plan. PCG has provided technical assistance to the state to determine implementation strategies and logic necessary to track spending and quantify the value of HCBS Medicaid expansion, as well as ongoing technical assistance to support the state with interpretation of federal guidance related to ARPA.



Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) | Systems of Care Grant Development

PCG collaborated with the state to design a grant program to develop innovative systems of care focused on four distinct areas. Development of the grant program included the following: conducting an environmental scan of evidence-based practices; stakeholder engagement; development of grant program specifications including eligibility criteria, eligible and ineligible use of funds, and timeline; creation of the grant application and all supporting materials; drafting of marketing and communication materials; and reviewing and scoring all applications. PCG will also assist the state in analyzing data submitted by grantees to inform a final grant report at the conclusion of the contract.



Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) | HCBS ARPA Grant Program Design and Implementation

In January 2023, PCG was contracted by AHCCCS to design and implement an ARPA HCBS grant program consisting of over \$40 million in award funds. PCG is utilizing our grant management solution, GrantsConnect™, to facilitate the full-cycle grant management process. PCG's cross-functional team—including grants managers and reviewers, HCBS experts, communicators, financial advisors, and technical support—have led the design, delivery, promotion, and implementation of the grant program for eligible provider entities across the state. AHCCCS will award funds to Medicaid HCBS providers that submitted applications that focused on improving the member experience for HCBS programs in Arizona. Since its implementation, over 800 applications have been submitted and reviewed/scored by PCG.



Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) | HCBS ARPA Grant Management

In Wisconsin, PCG manages the full grant lifecycle for the Medicaid HCBS Grants Supporting Quality and Innovation, funded by ARPA and overseen by DHS. Our team of consultants drafted the grant application, provided technical assistance and training to grant applicants, developed grant program tools, scoring criteria, grant agreements, reporting tools, and are responsible for the distribution of grant payments to recipients. As part of this project, PCG monitors awarded grant projects through progress reporting and audits. Each quarter, PCG accepts progress reports from each of the approximately 160 grant awardees, reviewing each to monitor milestone progress, funding usage and requests, and project impact and outcomes.

To learn more about how PCG can assist your state in implementing and managing your ARPA spending plan, contact us today.

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