

**WSC ADVISORY #2022-004**  
**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING PROVIDER WEBINAR**

**ACTION ENCOURAGED**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 27, 2022**

This advisory is to inform providers that work with Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) clients of an upcoming Provider webinar with the Agency for Health Care Administration. On Thursday, February 3, at 9 a.m., this informative webinar will demonstrate the steps of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** application process. **To register for the call please [CLICK HERE](#)**

The applications are being accepted by the Agency for Health Care Administration for provider stipend payments, provider retention payments, and delayed egress system payments.

**Provider stipend payments** are intended to build provider capacity and identify areas of workforce development. Providers may use this funding to enhance, expand, or strengthen their Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) workforce in the following areas:

- Staffing capacity increase may include one-time retention bonuses such as hero pay that honors caregivers who have courageously cared for Florida's citizens during the pandemic.
- Staffing stability to reduce turnover among staff through hazard pay, sick bank creation, differential pay for nights and weekends, and/or fringe benefits for staff.
- Staffing flexibility provides staff assistance with transportation through incentives such as agency-supplied care services either directly or through contracts with ride sharing services like Lyft and Uber or providing passes for public transportation.
- Improved professional development offering new or expanded training opportunities, such as paying staff for attending conferences, CEU credits, and college coursework.

**Provider retention payments** are intended to assist providers in building and sustaining their direct care workforce with recruitment, retention, and educational incentives. Providers may use this funding to enhance, expand, or strengthen their HCBS workforce in the following areas:

- Staffing recruitment through the payment of a recruitment or hiring bonus for newly hired staff.
- Staffing retention by paying longevity bonuses to staff who reach certain employment milestones with that provider.
- Staffing quality incentives, which reward staff who obtain certain educational or credentialing milestones.

**Delayed egress payments** are intended to assist providers who want to install a delayed egress system to minimize potential elopements. Reimbursement for the purchase and installation of a single delayed egress system is limited to the maximum amount of \$10,000.

**Applications are due to the Agency for Health Care Administration by *February 14, 2022.***

Providers can access the applications, review frequently asked questions, submit a question, and apply at: [Florida ARPA HCBS Application Information \(myflorida.com\)](#)