

PROVIDER ADVISORY #2021-015
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS

INFORMATIONAL

EFFECTIVE DATE: 9-9-2021

Many providers, clients, and advocates have alerted the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) of the need for provider rate increases. We understand that in order for our clients in the community to receive services, providers must be adequately compensated. While it takes legislative action during the upcoming session to authorize provider rate increases, we are requesting available American Rescue Plan Act funds be used to assist providers prior to the 2022 legislative session.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance to states on the ability to receive enhanced funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which seeks to protect and strengthen Florida's direct care workforce. The Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) submitted a plan to CMS and is awaiting approval at this time. The proposed plan includes one-time provider stipends, and recruitment/retention payments to direct service workers.

The Home and Community Based Services Spending Plan and Narrative submitted to CMS can be viewed online [here](#).

Specifics of the payment plan will be shared once Florida's plan is approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Florida Legislative Budget Commission which is expected this fall.