

# IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS    BT2022104    NOVEMBER 22, 2022

## HCBS providers can apply for Direct Service Workforce Investment Grant by Dec. 22

A key and critical focus of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Spend Plan is on supporting our direct service workforce. To that end, the FSSA is finalizing a Direct Service Workforce State Plan that includes short-, mid- and long-term strategies around wages and benefits, training and pathways, and promotion and planning.

In advance of the Direct Service Workforce State Plan release, the FSSA is excited to launch a critical short-term wages and benefits strategy in the form of a Direct Service Workforce Investment Grant opportunity. Direct service workers (DSWs) are essential in providing the day-to-day, in-person HCBS supports necessary for people to live, work and participate in their communities. The FSSA is dedicating \$130 million to this opportunity with a requirement that 95% of awarded funding flows through to DSWs.



**To receive funding, interested and eligible providers must submit an [attestation form](#) by Dec. 22, 2022.**

### Purpose

The purpose of the grant is to help HCBS providers invest in their direct service workforce through financial compensation, retention and wraparound benefits. The majority of funding will be required to go directly to the DSWs to recognize the extraordinary impact of their work.

### Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the Direct Service Workforce Investment Grant, the provider must comply with the following:

- Active during state fiscal year (SFY) 2022: Defined as having submitted claims for qualifying paid expenditures during SFY 2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022)
- Currently active: Defined as currently providing services to Medicaid beneficiaries
- Medicaid provider that provides services to individuals in the home and community: As of the date of attestation, providers must be an actively enrolled Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) provider and delivering the following types of services:
  - Adult Day Services
  - Adult Foster Care
  - Assisted Living
  - Attendant Care (including Self-Directed Attendant Care)
  - Community/Day Habilitation
  - Extended Services
  - Facility Based Supports
  - Facility Habilitation
  - Home Health Services
  - Homemaker
  - Participant Assistance and Care
  - Prevocational
  - Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
  - Residential Habilitation and Support (Hourly & Daily)
  - Respite Care
  - Structured Family Caregiving
  - Waiver Transportation
  - Workplace Assistance

## Grant requirements

Awardees are required to do the following, which providers must attest to as part of the attestation form:

- Direct 95% of the grant funding to DSWs.
- Develop a plan for how they will direct grant funding to DSWs. Completed plans must be posted to the provider's public-facing website and submitted in the attestation no later than Dec. 22, 2022.
- Respond to a final grant impact survey that captures how the dollars were spent.
- Obligate money from each round prior to receiving the next round of funding.
- Comply fully with the HCBS Settings Rule: After the March 17, 2023 deadline, providers must be compliant to receive further rounds of funding. For more detail on the settings compliance, see the [Direct Service Workforce Investment Grant FAQs](#) at [in.gov/fssa](http://in.gov/fssa) or the guidelines outlined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).



## Methodology

The FSSA intends to distribute \$130 million in total funding. Payments will be a flat percentage of qualifying SFY 2022 claims expenditures for each provider. The flat percentage applied to calculate grant amounts will be established based on provider participation.

## Attestation process and payment timing

The grant will be distributed in three equal payments, with the first payment round targeted for January 2023 and subsequent payment rounds expected to be in the spring and summer of 2023. Providers must complete the attestation form prior to the below stated deadline to qualify. After completing this attestation, eligible providers will receive an award notice with an estimate of their funding amount per payment round. Providers will be required to confirm they are still an active IHCP provider before each payment round. Additional providers, or providers seeking to add additional service locations to their initial application, will **not** be allowed to apply after the Dec. 22, 2022 deadline.

## How to apply

Interested and eligible providers must submit an [attestation form](#) by Dec. 22, 2022.

**Providers are required to submit one complete attestation form for each IHCP Provider ID.** The IHCP Provider ID is nine digits. If the provider's IHCP Provider ID includes a letter as the last character, please include the letter on the attestation form.

## Allowable expenses

Ninety-five percent (95%) of grant funds must be directed to the direct service workforce through financial compensation, wraparound benefits or retention.

The FSSA is planning to host a webinar on **Dec. 1, 2022, at 1 p.m. Eastern Time** to provide an overview of the grant. For more information on the grant or the webinar, see the full **announcement** posted on the [HCBS Enhanced FMAP Spending Plan](#) page and the [Direct Service Workforce Investment Grant FAQs](#) at [in.gov/fssa](http://in.gov/fssa). Look for further communication from the FSSA. Please submit any **questions** to [hcbs.spendplan@fssa.in.gov](mailto:hcbs.spendplan@fssa.in.gov).

**QUESTIONS?**

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