

From: Tom McAlvanah
Date: 07/12/2021
Re: Provider Association Meeting Notes

OPWDD gave a brief overview of their part of the DOH Spending Plan for the implementation of the 10% FMAP enhancement for HCBS services. Roger Bearden and Kate Marlay supplied a high level explanation of the proposals beginning with supporting the Direct Care Workforce. For those who may have seen the Plan, the OPWDD proposals included:

Improve the OPWDD Workforce (Pages 9-12) – \$554.4M State Funds under the 1915c Appendix K Waiver

1. COVID-19 Workforce Performance Initiatives (\$68.2M) that includes specific one-time payments to providers for their workforce based on tenure and vaccination status,
2. Workforce Longevity and Retention Bonus (\$446.2M) to give longevity and retention bonus equivalent to 20% increase in compensation. All the language in both are one-time increases, not rate enhancements.
3. DSP Workforce Development grants (\$20M) to improve skills and quality through standardized credentialing.
4. Workforce Recruitment Initiative (\$20M)

The grants have no additional information or who and how they will be applied.

Improve OPWDD Delivery System -- (\$30M) general category that will provide grants for infrastructure improvements from environment modifications. To technology investment to supportive decision making for individuals. More to come in this area.

Day Services Engagement initiative – (\$30M) for providers who want to evolve/ change business models and reinvest costs of physical sites toward more community integrated services, such as more without walls services.

Invest in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for People with I/DD – (\$30M) develop a strategic Initiative to that is inclusive of diverse and underserved communities. A grant administrator will oversee grant opportunities in cooperation with OPWDD,

Integrated Housing Pilot -- (\$20M) investment to pilot more integrated settings with greater flexibility and more integrated housing

Expand Crisis Services for People with I/DD (CSIDD) – (\$11.4M) expand and enhance rates for Intensive Behavioral Support Services (IBS).

Develop more Integrated Residential Services Options – (\$10M) fund incentive payments for Res Hab providers to create housing opportunities using technology, different staffing models to support people in more independent and less costly options.

Modernize OPWDD's IT infrastructure -- \$42M to modernize their current systems across billing, care management, needs service and service determinations, etc. I believe that there is an appetite from its users that TABS needs an overhaul.

While there are other interesting initiatives listed as well such as the Children's Waiver Rate adjustments at \$2.3 M and a Personal care Services/CDPAP getting an infusion of \$415M, there is a lot to digest.

There are certainly a lot of positives here and many details to get into, we will look to get this further broken down. OPW and DOHG are looking for a 30 day turnaround, and that is according to CMS. Again and as always, the devil is in the details and much of that is unknown.

Last thing, OPWDD has posted a large amount of data on its website that provides a window into the increases of people served statewide, by region, gender, diagnosis, and beyond. There is a lot, and I mean a LOT.

The link is here: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/data>