

## **Proposed HCBS ARPA Projects: Funds to Enhance, Expand, or Strengthen HCBS**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing additional funding to states to help them expand and enhance home- and community-based services (HCBS) for Medicaid beneficiaries. This funding is available to all states, and they have broad flexibility in how they use it. However, CMS strongly encourages states to use the funds to implement structural changes that will:

- 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.
- 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 determinants of health and improve equity for older adults and people with disabilities.

The deadline for states to expend these funds is March 31, 2025.

### **Other Information**

[2023 NASDDDS State ARPA Inventory](#)

[Advancing States Analysis of State HCBS Spending Plans](#)

- [March 2023 Analysis](#)

[CMS ARPA Section 9817](#)

- [2021 Overview of States Planned Activities](#)
- [State Spending Plans and Narratives](#)

[Ohio ARPA HCBS Update](#)

## **DODD ARPA Proposals - Total Appropriation: \$56.5m**

### **Adult Day Blueprint Recommendations**

These projects will expand and strengthen Adult Day Support and Employment Services by funding the pilot project to improve the quality of those services. It also focuses on enhancing competitive integrated employment outcomes, supporting people with complex needs in day services, and promoting the use of technology.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
ADS Quality Pilot (cap pilot at 76)	\$10,600,000
Employment Quality Pilot	\$450,000
Administration/Project Management of Quality Pilot	\$1,500,000
Provider Capacity Grants-Support and grants for technical assistance for providers supporting people with significant needs.	\$250,000
Purchase Employment Courses to move online to MyLearning (EF Partnership)	\$100,000

### **Supports for People Receiving Services and their Families**

Several projects are being proposed to support people living with developmental disabilities and their families. The first project focuses on promoting supported decision-making, providing strategies to support decision-making, and increasing awareness of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Another project aims to establish a mentorship program, connecting families with experienced people who can offer guidance and support in navigating disability services. The Ohio Leadership Academy seeks to equip people living with disabilities and family members with leadership and advocacy skills to actively contribute to decision-making processes. The expansion of Charting the LifeCourse resources aims to help people living with disabilities and their families identify their vision for a fulfilling life and effectively utilize home and community-based services. Additionally, the Family Care Connection project aims to provide agile support and services to families supporting their family members with disabilities by addressing their diverse needs. Lastly, the development of in-person and online content will focus on enhancing person-centered planning assessments by SSAs to better support people with disabilities and their families in accessing appropriate services.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Supported Decision Making	\$250,000
Mentorship Program	\$500,000
Ohio Leadership Academy	\$350,000
CtLC Resource Expansion	\$200,000
Ohio Disability Conference	\$150,000

Family Care Connection	\$7,500,000
Universal Changing Tables	\$1,000,000
Support for Access Ohio (OOD Project)	\$2,000,000
In-Person and Online Training Content Development (SSAs and Families) Priority: Assessment and Complex Cases	\$250,000

## Workforce

These projects are all designed to support the recruitment and retention of DSPs. The DSP portal will be a platform where DSPs can register their credentials, store training, and build their professional portfolio. The DSP support network will establish provider-specific projects that can be used to support DSPs in HCBS settings in ways that reduce their isolation and provide them with person-specific support. Establishing or expanding ERNs will provide economic and wellness solutions to DSPs. These solutions could include linkage to success coaches and community resource navigators.

Project	Amount
Creation of a DSP Portal	\$3,500,000
DSP Support Network	\$2,000,000
Expand Employer Resource Networks (ERNs)	\$1,000,000

## Innovative Technology and Supporting Youth

The MSY waiver pilot will determine the additional services and costs associated with those services needed for youth with complex needs to be supported successfully in an HCBS waiver setting. With the restoration of the Tech First line item, many technology projects that were originally proposed for HCBS ARPA can now be funded through GRF. One project not funded through GRF is for smart home technology to be purchased and installed in HCBS settings. There may be other projects proposed for technology to ensure that people living with developmental disabilities have access to the latest technology and that they can live as independently as possible

Project	Amount
MSY Waiver Pilot	\$3,000,000
Smart Home Technology	\$1,500,000
General Technology Projects	

**Next Steps:**

- Schedule feedback meeting
- Provide feedback on proposed projects
- Propose projects not listed
  - Must adhere to the HCBS ARPA criteria and expenditure timeline
- Send questions, proposals, or feedback to [Steven.Beha@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Steven.Beha@dodd.ohio.gov)

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