

# Medicaid Payments to Direct Care Workers in Long-term Services and Supports (LTSS) Settings

## Overview

On April 15, 2020, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) had approved Arkansas Medicaid's request due to the COVID-19 public health emergency to make additional payments to direct care workers who provide long-term services and supports (LTSS) in institutional and noninstitutional settings. These payments will be made through the worker's employer for the period April 5 through May 30, 2020. The employer must be a Medicaid-enrolled provider.

On April 16, the Department of Human Services (DHS) released guidance and the necessary reporting forms to employers. The link to those resources can be accessed at <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/resources/response-covid-19>

The Medicaid Disaster State Plan Amendment that CMS approved to authorize Medicaid funds for Care Continuity Payments for direct care workers in nursing home and other long-term care and LTSS settings continues those payments for a maximum of 30 days if there are over 1,000 active COVID-19 cases on May 31. As of May 29, there are 1,699 active cases in Arkansas. Accordingly, authority for these payments will expire on Tuesday, June 30, 2020.