



Office of the Secretary
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S201
Little Rock, AR 72203-1437
P: 501.682.8650
F: 501.682.6836
TDD: 501.682.8820
HUMANSERVICES.ARKANSAS.GOV

September 17, 2021

Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

RE: Arkansas Revised HCBS Spending Plan and Narrative Submission for the American Rescue Plan Act FMAP Increase

To Whom It May Concern:

On August 27th, 2021, the Arkansas Department of Human Services received a request for additional information from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding Arkansas's American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) section 9817 initial spending plan and spending narrative submitted on July 12th, 2021. The request identified specific information CMS will need to review before the initial spending plan and spending narrative can be approved. A meeting was held on September 7th, 2021 with CMS to provide an opportunity to discuss Arkansas's ARP section 9817 initial spending plan and spending narrative, particularly with regard to the attributable funds and estimated expenditures.

Therefore, this communication serves as the cover letter for Arkansas's revised submission including the requested following five assurances as referenced in State Medicaid Director Letter (SMDL) [#21-003](#), section D, titled *Required Reporting on Activities to Enhance, Expand, or Strengthen HCBS under the Medicaid Program*.

- The state is using the federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP to supplement and not supplant existing state funds expended for Medicaid HCBS in effect as of April 1, 2021;
- The state is using the state funds equivalent to the amount of federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP to implement or supplement the implementation of one or more activities to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS under the Medicaid program;
- The state is not imposing stricter eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures for HCBS programs and services than were in place on April 1, 2021;
- The state is preserving covered HCBS, including the services themselves and the amount, duration, and scope of those services, in effect as of April 1, 2021; and
- The state is maintaining HCBS provider payments at a rate no less than those in place as of April 1, 2021.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide additional information regarding Arkansas's initial spending plan and narrative and look forward to receiving approval.

As previously noted in our initial submission, Elizabeth Pitman, Director of the Division of Medical Services, will serve as Arkansas's designated point of contact regarding the quarterly spending plans and narratives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Stehle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'S'.

Dawn Stehle
Deputy Director for Health and Medicaid Director