



{ Transmitted via email, April 17, 2020 }

Dear Administrator Lynch,

On behalf of the members of the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), we write to request an update on the disbursement of the remaining \$70 billion dollars in the Provider Health and Social Service Emergency Fund. We know there is tremendous pressure on federal officials to disburse these funds and there are numerous sectors representing millions of Americans in dire need of support. At this time, we are extremely concerned that Medicaid providers of services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism are being overlooked.

As you know, the people we serve across the country, who rely on Medicaid because they were born with an intellectual, developmental or physical disability, represent one of the core groups this safety net was created for in 1965. We are writing to ask for transparency as decisions are made about how to distribute this tranche, specifically:

- What is the timing of the next tranche;
- Will HCBS Medicaid providers be included in the next tranche; and
- If HCBS Medicaid providers are to be included, how is HHS planning to deliver funds to these Medicaid providers?

Our system of services for people with I/DD and Autism is the first line of defense for millions of people. It is our Direct Support Professionals who are keeping those they support out of the emergency healthcare system. A story in The Washington Post this week, highlighted the struggles of a dedicated Direct Support Professional in a powerful way. [“Across the nation, we are — rightly — applauding health-care workers nightly, but many people have no idea what that man and his colleagues do daily. They work in one of the most difficult, and hidden, health-care jobs in the country. And it is one that has landed them, too, on the front lines of this pandemic.”](#) This is happening right in the heart our nation’s capital. With the exception of a few stories like this one and our advocacy cries, we are all but forgotten in response planning and funding.

Without our staff, there are no community-based services and without our providers, there is no community-based infrastructure for some of the country’s most vulnerable citizens. We are essential to the health and safety of millions of people and we are asking for your support to stabilize our organizations, support our workforce, and support our access to personal protective equipment.

We thank you for your incredible leadership throughout this outbreak and are extraordinarily grateful for all you and your team have done to support flexibilities and rate enhancements in the states. Unfortunately, many states continue to lag in implementing needed rates enhancement for our workforce needs. That makes the emergency fund disbursements all the more urgent. Our providers simply cannot afford to wait any longer for needed support.

Thank you for your advocacy for our services.

Respectfully,

Shannon McCracken

VP Government Relations