



Ms. Sarah Meek
Senior Director of Legislative Affairs
American Network of Community Options and Resources
1101 King Street, Suite 380
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Ms. Meek:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Becerra and Acting Administrator Richter regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) implementation of H.R. 1319, the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" (ARP), section 9817, entitled "Additional Support for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services during the COVID-19 Emergency." I have been asked to respond on their behalf. I appreciate you taking the time to share your ideas and recommendations for the implementation of this important provision.

We are committed to working with states, beneficiaries, providers, advocates, and other stakeholders to enhance, expand, and strengthen state home and community-based service (HCBS) systems under the Medicaid program. CMS recognizes that section 9817 of the ARP provides opportunities for states to strengthen HCBS in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, to increase and improve the delivery of high-quality Medicaid HCBS, and to advance state long-term services and supports (LTSS) system reform.

On May 13, 2021 CMS released State Medicaid Director letter (SMDL) #21-003, [Implementation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Section 9817: Additional Support for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services during the COVID-19 Emergency](#). This letter provides information on:

- The eligible services for which states can claim the increased federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP);
- Requirements for states to receive the increased FMAP, including reporting to demonstrate that the state is meeting the provisions described in the letter;
- The process for claiming the increased FMAP, which is based on the existing processes for states to claim for Medicaid expenditures; and
- Examples of activities that states can implement to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS.

We appreciate the recommendations you provided in your letter and will take them into consideration as we continue to implement section 9817 of the ARP.

Thank you again for your letter and for sharing your views. Should you need anything further, please contact Jennifer Bowdoin, Director of our Division of Community Systems Transformation,

by email at Jennifer.bowdoin@cms.hhs.gov. Please share a copy of this response with the cosigners of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Marie Costello". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "M".

Anne Marie Costello
Acting Deputy Administrator and Director