

**INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2292-MC-FFS**

**DATE:** November 29, 2021

**TO:** All Iowa Medicaid Providers

**APPLIES TO:** Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** HCBS ARPA CNRS for Children Pilot Project Listening Sessions

**EFFECTIVE:** Upon Receipt

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Section 9817 of the ARPA provides qualifying states with a temporary 10 percentage point increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures for Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs from April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. States must use these federal funds to supplement existing state funds for Medicaid HCBS in effect as of April 1, 2021.

In addition, states must use state funds equal to the amount of federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP to implement or supplement one or more activities to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS under the Medicaid program. States will be permitted to use the increased FMAP funds through March 31, 2024, on activities aligned with the goals of section 9817 of the ARPA and as listed in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance.

Under ARPA, states can implement a variety of activities, including enhancements to HCBS services, eligibility, infrastructure, and reimbursement methodologies, to enhance, expand, or strengthen Medicaid HCBS. Iowa's initial and quarterly ARPA HCBS spending plan and narrative may be accessed online at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/ARPA><sup>1</sup>.

Iowa Medicaid will be holding two listening sessions for the ARPA HCBS Community-Based Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation Services (CNRS) for Children pilot project. CNRS is a specialized category of neuro-rehabilitation services provided by a multidisciplinary team of allied health and support staff that have been trained in, and deliver, services individually designed to address cognitive, medical, behavioral, and psychosocial

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/ARPA>

challenges, as well as the physical manifestations of acquired brain injury. Services concurrently work to optimize functioning at personal, family and community levels, by supporting the increase of adaptive behaviors, decrease of maladaptive behaviors, and adaptation and accommodation to challenging behaviors to maximize independence.

The CNRS for Children pilot project is specifically intended to build infrastructure within the state by developing and implementing a CNRS residential service model to serve children in Iowa with complex neurobehavioral needs to prevent hospitalizations and out-of-state placement; and enable children who are receiving treatment out of state to return to Iowa to receive residential neurobehavioral treatment. To learn more about CNRS please visit the [CNRS webpage](#)<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of the listening sessions is to gain stakeholder feedback on the development of the guidelines, criteria, standards and intended outcomes of a CNRS residential service for children pilot project. Iowa Medicaid currently covers residential CNRS for adults. There will be one listening session for providers and one session for members.

To join a listening session, please select a session from the table below, and approximately 5-10 minutes before the session is scheduled to begin, click the Zoom meeting link or call the phone number provided.

| HCBS ARPA CNRS for Children Pilot Project Listening Sessions |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session 1 – Providers                                        | December 8, 2021,<br>4:00 PM CT | <p>Join ZoomGov Meeting<br/> <a href="https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608791827?pwd=ckNGTFViVU5TTepWM3NNTGh4MGkzdz09">https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608791827?pwd=ckNGTFViVU5TTepWM3NNTGh4MGkzdz09</a></p> <p>Meeting ID: 160 879 1827<br/> Passcode: 872743</p> <p>Dial by your location<br/> +1 551 285 1373 US<br/> Meeting ID: 160 879 1827<br/> Passcode: 872743</p> |
| Session 2 – Members                                          | December 8, 2021,<br>5:00 PM CT | <p>Join ZoomGov Meeting<br/> <a href="https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1615056699?pwd=K0xqNGpjZkdBalhWRHJWY1hyMVdiQT09">https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1615056699?pwd=K0xqNGpjZkdBalhWRHJWY1hyMVdiQT09</a></p> <p>Meeting ID: 161 505 6699<br/> Passcode: 953956</p> <p>Dial by your location<br/> +1 551 285 1373 US<br/> Meeting ID: 161 505 6699<br/> Passcode: 953956</p> |

<sup>2</sup> [Community-Based Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation Services \(CNRS\) | Iowa Department of Human Services](#)

Iowa Medicaid is also accepting stakeholder feedback through the ARPA project mailbox at [ARPAHCBSPROJECTS@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:ARPAHCBSPROJECTS@dhs.state.ia.us).

Please send your comments regarding the CNRS for Children pilot project no later than close of business Friday, December 17, 2021.