

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Provider Retention Payments

Date: 6/22/2022

Per HHSC's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Spending Plan, Aetna Better of Texas (Aetna) is distributing temporary Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Provider Retention payments to agency providers and consumer-directed services employers to support recruitment and retention efforts for direct care staff delivering HCBS services. HCBS claims for dates of service March 1, 2022 - August 31, 2022 are eligible for temporary rate increases (add-ons).

By July 29, 2022 Aetna will adjust all claims processed prior to June 15, 2022, to reimburse the additional amounts for dates of service beginning March 1, 2022. Claims that Aetna processed as of June 15, 2022 already reflect the add-on.

Required Attestation and Reporting

HHSC has adopted a new rule, [Title 1 Texas Administrative Code \(1 TAC\) 355.207](#) governing the HCBS ARPA Provider Retention payments, which establishes the criteria and requirements for provider spending of the funds. Providers must use at least 90 percent of HCBS ARPA funds for one-time financial compensation for their direct care workforce. This includes, but is not limited to, lump-sum bonuses, retention bonuses, and paid time off to receive a COVID-19 vaccination or to isolate after receiving a positive COVID-19 test.

Providers who receive the add-on payments for dates of service March 1, 2022 - August 31, 2022 *must* submit an attestation, an initial report, and a final report to HHSC. *The attestation and initial report are due on August 15, 2022.* Providers who do not submit the required attestation, initial report and final report will be subject to recoupment of all payment add-ons.

The required attestation and initial report are due August 15, 2022, and can be accessed through this link: [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Enhanced Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) Provider Retention Attestation and Initial Reporting Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

Providers may contact Aetna at gravesl@aetna.com.