

## **Home Care Emergency Funding in Response to COVID-19**

The home care workforce in [State] is facing a crisis during this COVID-19 outbreak. Many home care workers are experiencing clients refusing care or are facing circumstances that make it difficult for them to continue providing care – two trends that threaten the collapse of this essential provider network. Additionally, many of these frontline workers are still providing care to some of the most vulnerable populations, oftentimes without adequate training or protective gear.

Home care workers are a vital part of [State]’s COVID-19 containment response – the care they provide to seniors and people with disabilities enables their clients to avoid unnecessary visits to our hospitals and nursing homes. In order to ensure that [State] has a sufficient home care workforce to care for these populations during this pandemic and after, [State] needs to take advantage of emergency measures CMS is offering.

Through a [Medicaid Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment and/or Section 1115(a) Demonstration and/or a 1915(c) Waiver Appendix K (depending on which Medicaid authorities your home care programs are under)] submission, [State] can get federal approval and funding to enact a number of expedited program changes. [State] should move quickly to seek the following program enhancements:

- 1) Temporarily increase home care reimbursement rates to provide hazard pay and ensure a sufficient supply of workers.
- 2) Temporarily provide retainer payments to personal care providers to stabilize and preserve the workforce while many clients refuse care, need fewer workers, or are hospitalized.

Other states have already received CMS approval for these policy changes. In [State], these policies should apply to home care workers providing [list all applicable services] under [list all applicable programs].

Finally, it is critical that [State] structure these policies to require home care agencies to pass all, or the vast majority, of these emergency funds onto the workers who are the ones providing these essential services.