## ***Background***

## **On April 16, 2021, the Commonwealth issued a Request for Information (RFI) to gather broad feedback and ideas from the community on how to best utilize enhanced funding available through Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).** In response, 98 individuals and organizations submitted a total of 217 proposals across four defined Topic Areas:

* **Topic Area 1:** Access to HCBS services and supports, 71 responses
* **Topic Area 2:** Technology and infrastructure investments to strengthen HCBS, 43 responses
* **Topic Area 3:** Initiatives that provide opportunities to promote HCBS and emphasize high-quality, person-centered care Promotion of HCBS, 28 responses
* **Topic Area 4:** HBCS workforce development, including recruitment and retention strategies, 75 responses

## ***Summary of RFI Proposals***

**Below is a high-level summary of the 217 proposals organized by submitter.**

| **Organization Name  *(if applicable)*** | **Brief Summary of Proposal** |
| --- | --- |
| @Home, a non-profit innovation practice | Provision of Home-Based Comprehensive Primary Care for the most medically, socially high-need MassHealth and/or Medicare members. |
| 1199SEIU | Pandemic Premium Pay & Infection Control Training for MassHealth personal care attendants and the full home care workforce. |
| 2Life Communities | Exploring Clustering of HCBS in Affordable Senior Housing |
| 3LPLace, Inc | Promulgate regulations for Real Lives Law |
| AARP Massachusetts | Investments in Home Modifications and Assistive Technology |
| No Wrong Door Enhancement to Include Navigation of HCBS |
| Temporary Medicaid HCBS Provider Rate Increase |
| Improve Access to HCBS Services and Supports |
| Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts | investment in tools that measure use of transportation by members with disabilities |
| allowing for waiver services to access remote supports |
| Recruitment and training for Autism direct care workers |
| Advocates Inc. | Rate enhancements and caregiver stipends |
| Alzheimer’s Association, MA/NH Chapter | Expansion of the Dementia Care Coordination Program in Massachusetts |
| Apex Healthcare Services | Transportation funds given to home care aides and RNs |
| Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP) | DDS Provider Rate Enhancements and Workforce Recruitment and Retention Investments |
| Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP)  Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP)/Coordinator of the Adult Foster Care (AFC) Advisory Group | Build Technology Capacity of I/DD Community Based Providers |
| Support of the Collaborative Proposal for recruitment and retention for human services workforce |
| Support of the Collaborative Proposal for Student loan repayment program for human services workforce |
| Support of the Collaborative proposal for a marketing campaign around human services careers |
| Workforce Development Opportunities for Direct Care Workers |
| Provide an AFC Caregiver stipend |
| Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP)/Coordinator of the Adult Foster Care (AFC) Advisory Group  Association for Behavioral Healthcare | Build Technology Capacity of AFC Community-Based Providers |
| Support for the Collaborative proposals around workforce investment in the human services field |
| AFC Workforce Expansion to allow spouse as paid caregiver |
| Support for The Collaborative Proposal: Recruitment and retention bonus for Human Services Workforce |
| Association for Behavioral Healthcare  BAYADA Home Health Care | Support for The Collaborative Proposal: Student loan repayment program for human services workforce |
| Support for The Collaborative Proposal: Marketing Campaign to increase awareness of HS jobs |
| Support for The Collaborative Proposal: Workforce Investments to Stabilize and Expand Access to Intensive Care Coordination (Targeted Case Management) for Children and Adolescents |
| Support for The Collaborative Proposal: Workforce Investments to Stabilize Psychiatric Day Treatment Clinical Workforce |
| Continued Investment in Technology and Infrastructure to Support Psychiatric Rehabilitative Services |
| Direct Care Workforce Recruitment, development and retention |
| Berkshire Health Systems | Care Management Strategies to Address Food Insecurity and Housing Stability |
| Berkshire Health Systems  Bethany at Home | Medication Therapy Management Program |
| Training and Professional Development for Care Management Teams |
| State sponsored required training for all home care worker |
| Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts | Setting up referral, resource and support system for individuals with brain injury, their families, caregivers and professionals electronicall |
| Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts  C4 Innovations | Working with Individuals with Brain Injury and Other Cognitive Impairments |
| Bonus for workers employed by any waiver program |
| Improve knowledge, practice, and policies related to co-occurring behavioral health conditions |
| C4 Innovations  Cardinal Cushing Centers | Training on evidence-based practices |
| Mandated racial equity training for HCBS services/providers, including technical assistance, data and evaluation |
| Smart Home Capability & Backup Generators |
| Cardinal Cushing Centers  Caregather | Workforce Training |
| Increased Access to Transportation: Van & Travel Instruction |
| Pilot New Adult Day Care Model that Empowers Home Health Worker & Creates Community for Older Adults |
| CareTracks | Vendor to procure, train and retain home care and HHA workforce |
| CCM parents (6 parents submitted similar proposals) | Critical relief and support to CCM families without filled CSN hours |
| CCM parents (6 parents submitted similar proposals)  Center for Living and Working | Build and support a live CSN nursing database accessible to CSN families |
| Support for Dignity Alliance proposals |
| Center for Public Representation | Add 700 MFP-Residential Supports and 300 MFP-Community Living slots |
| Center for Public Representation  Heading Home Inc. | Intensive Outreach to Nursing Facility Residents to offer community services and assist with transition planning |
| Fund home modifications, create housing search specialists and create residential service system for elders |
| LTC System and Nursing Facility Transformation |
| Development workforce initiative for low income earners |
| Citiblock Health | Procure a vendor to provide care management to FFS dual eligibles |
| Citiblock Health  Commonwealth Care Alliance | Supporting HCBS provider infrastructure to collaborate |
| Infrastructure investment to improve data sharing between state agencies and health plans, and between health plans and providers of telehealth devices/plans; provide devices to members for tele-health |
| Commonwealth Care Alliance  Community Servings, Inc. | One-time funds for moving costs for individuals who are homeless or transitioning from a facility; medically tailored meals; caregiver respite, support and education |
| Employ strategies from prior MFP Demonstration; identify and engage individuals who are eligible but not enrolled in ICO plans; re-engineer day services in COVID- recovery; invest in assistive technology to prevent SNF admissions |
| Develop professional training programs for direct care roles; develop training on best practices in managing direct care workforce; fund training for CHW (waive application fee); bonus pool for organizations meeting retention threshold, PCA directory; funding for CPS and Recovery Coach trainings |
| Funding to support additional families being served medically tailored meals |
| Community Servings, Inc.  Connected Home Care | One-time investments for refrigerated delivery vans and technology enhancements |
| Home care agency and workforce management system that would provide more visibility for ASAPs and de-identified data analysis for EOEA. |
| DAAHR/BCIL | Develop a Cash and Counseling pilot program through 1915(j) authority to allow PCA consumers to pay PCAs at a higher rate for hard-to-fill shifts |
| DAAHR/BCIL  Deloitte Consulting | Wheelchair Loaner Progam |
| Supporting Housing for Nursing Home Transitions |
| Rate Increase for PCAs |
| Develop Person Centered HCBS Quality Metrics |
| Invest in new "front doors" for consumers, including: (1) single channel to learn about state programs and apply for benefits, (2) a digital front door and investment in remote care technology, and (3) a provider marketplace or directory to help with self-directed care. |
| Deloitte Consulting  Dignity Alliance MA | Invest in IT infrastructure updates, such as cybersecurity and hosting, to enable a digital front door and remote care model for EHS agencies to provide HCBS. |
| Use predictive analytics to better understand what programs/services may benefit individuals transitioning from facility settings to the community or wanting to stay in home/in community. |
| Expanding HCBS Workforce Efforts to Improve Recruitment, Training, and Retention |
| Allow FEW members with income over 300% FBR to pay a premium in the amount over 300% FBR rather than calculating an income deductible |
| Dignity Alliance MA  Valley Collaborative | Add 700 MFP-Residential Supports and 300 MFP-Community Living slots while reducing nursing facility bed capacity by an equal amount |
| Create and fund a major home modifications program similar to MFP-CL service, hire 75 housing search specialists and create residential program and oversight for elders |
| Provide one-time grants to nursing homes to transform business model and develop residential programs and community services. Provide mentoring grants to agencies able to provide support |
| Develop a Cash and Counseling pilot program through 1915(j) authority to allow PCA consumers to pay PCAs at a higher rate for hard-to-fill shifts |
| Allow PACE participants to remain on PACE if their income increases and puts them over 300% FBR. This is already in place for waiver participants. |
| Building a network of coordinators to counsel NF residents and provide options rather than nursing facility |
| Add new servies to the Frail Elder Waiver |
| Expand access to state funded Home Care programs |
| Amend the Community First Trust Fund to require that all FMAP the state earns through the American Rescue Plan to be deposited into this fund |
| Fund a study by a qualified entity to evaluate the Long Term Services and Supports in Massachusetts |
| Support Staff training and capacity to provide Telehealth to consumers, as well as training, devices, and internet access for consumers |
| Establish an initiative to connect the ASAP network with appropriate Admission Discharge Transfer (ADT) notification systems to improve care coordination between HCBS providers and health care systems. |
| Increase rates for direct care workforce |
| Continue rate enhancements for CBDS providers throughout PHE, pay stipends for "internships" for those seeking employment and pay incentives to employers. Lift ASD funding caps. |
| Valley Collaborative  Maxim Healthcare Services | Provide technology and internet for families and provide technology infrastructure and pilot money for creative projects to providers |
| Pay family caregivers of CCM families |
| Maxim Healthcare Services  Disability Law Center | Pilot program for integrated day services for day habilitation participants |
| Fund pilot program to provide integrated day programming for participants of Day Hab. Use info to restructure the program |
| Disability Law Center  Elara Caring | Pilot program for integrated day services for day habilitation participants |
| Support for MCH and DAAHR's proposal |
| Value based purchasing in Home care |
| Elara Caring  Massachusetts Adult Day Services Association | Home Care workers coordinate SDoH for high need clients |
| Quality Incentive Vital Access Provider Pool |
| Ensuring Access to Adult Day Health Services |
| Massachusetts Adult Day Services Association  Guidehouse | Adult Day Health Workforce Development & Retention |
| Expanding HCBS, MFP, and Addressing the Digital Divide |
|  | Enhanced rates to support day habilitation providers to recruit and retain its workforce |
| Habilitation | Technology availability for persons served at a day habilitation center |
| Assistance Corp | Guaranteed transportation services availability for day habilitation participants |
|  | Increased Opportunities for Nursing Home Residents to access day habilitation services |
| HCBS Solutions LLC | Investment strategies |
| Home Care Aide Council | Incentives to get Home health care aides to return to work |
| Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts | Develop online training for Home Health Aides, media recruitment campaign and nursing preceptor program |
| Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts  Home for Little Wanderers | Supplemental fund to pay home health care agencies to support workforce training infrastructure and technology for families in home to support telehealth |
| Develop online training for Home Health Aides, media recruitment campaign and nursing preceptor program |
| Home Care workers coordinate SDoH |
| Improvement/purchase of cloud-based infrastructure and purchase of provider hardware |
| Home for Little Wanderers | Media campaign and outreach/collateral contact to community providers and schools |
| Recruitment, retention and mentorship of diverse clinical staff |
| HCBS Direct Care Workforce Wage Increase |
| Hebrew Senior Life | Providing Training to Home Care Workers and technology to families |
|  | Build a Home Care Workforce to Meet Growing Demand |
|  | HCBS Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Program |
| Justice Resource Institute, Inc. | Recognition, Hiring & Retention Bonus Direct Care Workforce |
| Kennedy-Donovan Center, Inc | retention/bonuses to staff |
| Kennedy-Donovan Center, Inc  Kinto | Marketing campaign and transportation services |
| enhance tech capacity for staff |
| Provide Kinto (Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Coaching App) to MassHealth Members |
| Kinto  LeadingAge Massachusetts | Update Kinto (Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Coaching App)for Spanish Speakers |
| Using Kinto to Help Caregivers Identify Helpful Resources |
| Pilot to Inform Sustainability of Supportive Housing Financed by Health Plan Pool |
| Lift and Care Systems, Inc. | Funding for home accessibility adaptations |
| Mass Home Care | Affordable Housing as a service: Personal Care Homes & ALR |
| Mass Home Care  Massachusetts Assisted Living Association | Training & Technology Support to Older Adults |
| Consumer Direction added as a service in FEW & Geriatric Mobile Crisis Intervention (GMCT) for Older Adults |
| Early Onset ADRD pilot waiver |
| Initiative to Stabilize the Home Care Aide Workforce |
| Temporary GAFC Rate Increase |
| Massachusetts Assocation of Health Plans | Enhancing Peer Workforce to support BH needs associated with isolation and loneliness |
| Massachusetts Assocation of Health Plans  Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH) | Investing in Technology for Telehealth and Home Monitoring Devices |
| Nursing Home Transition Program |
| Funds to support transitions to the community from a NF |
| Behavioral Health Enhancements to Strengthen Crisis and Community-Based Services, Address SDOH and Improve Infrastructure |
| Massachusetts Council for Adult Foster Care | Technology access for AFC families |
| Massachusetts Council for Adult Foster Care  Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium | investment to AFC providers and families |
| Funds to sustain, support EI providers |
| Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, on behalf of the Children’s Mental Health Campaign (CMHC)] | items to address children's BH boarding issue |
| Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, on behalf of the Children’s Mental Health Campaign (CMHC)]  MassNAELA | funds to incentivize BH ped workforce |
| Pilot development of IECMH Centers of excellence - infant/early childhood workforce |
| Add MCPAP for early childhood mental health (IECMH) and FC |
| Creation of statewide TA center for school BH services |
| Expand income eligibility for Waiver/PACE members with income over 300% FBR |
| MassNAELA  MassPACE, Association (MassPACE, Inc) | Extend PETI to PACE |
| Several proposals to expand access to PACE (including support for other submissions |
| MassPACE, Association (MassPACE, Inc)  Mental Health Association, Inc | Access to technology for PACE participants, embedding PACE or PACE like services in housing, investing in orgs to provide medical and social transportation, expand and adapt PACE centers |
| Promotion of PACE and HCBS in Massachusetts |
| General support for rate increases for HCBS direct work staff |
| After-Injury Support, Recovery support, and Vocational Re-Entry Support for Individuals with Brain Injury |
| Mercy Adult Day Health of Westfield | Funds to lease a vehicle to transport member to ADH center |
| Mercy Adult Day Health of Westfield  Neuro-Rehab Management, Inc. | Marketing safe and available ADH services |
| Funds to allow ADH to hire additional transportation staff |
| Funds to allow ADH to build out, and hire staff |
| Case Management for individuals with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) living in the community |
| New England Health Care Contractors | Establishing Statewide Non-Emergency Medical Transportation System |
| Nizhoni Health Systems | Rate increases for home health |
| Nizhoni Health Systems  Nonotuck Resource Associates | Supplemental rate increase to subsidize cost of PPE for provider staff and for Home Health recipients |
| Rate adjustment to allow for HHA staff to work from home |
| AFC caregiver COVID stipend |
| Nonotuck Resource Associates  Partners HealthCare at Home | Pay for internet access and iPad for AFC caregivers and members who need access. |
| sign on and retention bonuses for AFC care givers |
| Allow spouses to serve as AFC caregivers. |
| Rate Add-ons and enhancements |
|  | Targeted efforts to transition individuals from institutions to community |
|  | Increase Enrollment in self-direction |
|  | Add employer budget authority to the Frail Elder Waiver |
|  | Create a 1915(k) to increase FMAP |
| Public Consulting | Develop a 1915(i) for behavioral and mental health services |
| Group LLC | Remote supports and monitoring technology |
|  | Enterprise Case management technology roadmap |
|  | Comprehensive Critical Incident management services, data analytics, Enhance oversight and site visits |
|  | Increase recruitment and retention while integrating technology into the system of care |
| Partners HealthCare at Home  Patient Centered Medical Care | Building a new cohort of home care workers and using technology to support families in the home |
| Building a Home care Workforce to meet growing demand |
| HCBS Workforce Development, Recruitment, and Retention Grant Program |
| Funding for Physicals & Salaries |
| Reliable School Medical Transport | Provide funds to allow for purchase of transportation management software |
| Resources for Human Development | recruitment/ retain staff |
| Resources for Human Development  Road to Responsibility | Technology to help monitor meds, support individuals in homes |
| $5M investment in high speed internet and Wi-Fi hardware. $100M investment in day and res program rates |
| SEIU 509 | training increase pay for HBCS workers |
| Seniorlink | Enhancing FEW Service Delivery to Benefit Caregivers of People Living with Alzheimer's and Dementia |
| Seven Hills Community Services | Building Technology Infrastructure |
| Seven Hills Community Services  St Camillus ADH | Continued 5.25% Day Support Add Ons for ALTR Programs |
| Increased support for relationship building and increased use of adaptive technology |
| Workforce recruitment and retention |
| Increased access to ADH in rural areas |
| St Camillus ADH  Tempus Unlimited | ADH/SNF partnerships |
| State funded staffing collaboration across the healthcare continuum |
| One time bonus for AFC caregivers who provided care during PHE |
| Tempus Unlimited  The Arc of Greater Plymouth, (The Arc of Plymouth and Upper Cape Cod, DBA | Smartphones and tablets supplied PCA Consumers |
| Recommend continued enhanced rates for day and for ALTR to cover staff during the day to care for individuals at home during the day. Also shared living caregiver supports and rate increases so direct care staff can be paid a higher hourly wage and direct care staff can get a bonus to reward them for their dedication during the challenging past year. |
| The Arc of Greater Plymouth, (The Arc of Plymouth and Upper Cape Cod, DBA  The ARC of Massachusetts | Mandated racial equity training for HCBS services/providers, including technical assistance, data and evaluation |
| Additional Investments in Family Supports and In Home Supports- $97M |
| The ARC of Massachusetts  The Arc of the South Shore | Investing in Supportive Technology for all DDS supported individuals to help them maximize independence, improve quality of life and achieve cost savings.-$4.7M |
| A committee and social media public information awareness campaign to promote community inclusion of individuals with ID/DD- $750K |
| Increase to all direct care staff who support individuals with ID/DD by 11% in FY22. $322M |
| Rate increases to go to AFC and shared living providers and staff to pay for respite, in home supports or any other supports the caregiver or individual need. |
| The Arc of the South Shore  The Collaborative | A Hero Bonus and a Recruitment bonus |
| retention of qualified staff |
| The Collaborative  UCP of MetroBoston | Student loan repayment |
| marketing campaign to recruit workforce |
| Technology to Improve Service and Integrity in Community based programs |
| UnitedHealthcare Community Programs | Expansion of HCBS Services and Supports |
| UnitedHealthcare Community Programs  Upham's Corner Health Committee | Expand access to technology to members |
| Support training in HCBS workforce and establish PTO for HCBS workforce |
| Providing training and technology to Uphams Health Care employees and members |
| Upham's Corner Health Committee  Viability, Inc. | Provide career ladder, uniforms and ESL classes to HHA workforce |
| Provide tablets and caregiver portal to AFC homes |
| Viability, Inc.  Victory Human Services | Retention payments to AFC caregivers |
| Investment to recruit/retain HHA, short term rental assistance |
| Vinfen | Community Connecting and Health and Wellness |
| Vinfen  WCI - Work | Support for ADDP proposal |
| Support for ADDP proposal |
| Support for ADDP proposal |
| Investments in Technology, Transportation and Workforce |
| WCI - Work  WORK Inc | increase day rate and supports for workers/families |
| increased tech support |
| Salary equity for residential programs |
| WeCare 365 | Increase caregiver stipend to AFC caregivers |
| *Note: Certain responses were excluded because they included MassHealth member information that could be considered protected health information (PHI)* |  |
|  | |