



September 6, 2022

Dear Provider:

Your facility qualifies for a payment under the terms of Pennsylvania Act 54 of 2022. This law provides a total of \$135.440 million in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for nursing facility payments. \$104.926 million will be allocated to nursing facilities (NF) based on Medical Assistance (MA) days of care for the third quarter of calendar year 2021 and \$26.231 million will be allocated based on licensed beds for all NFs as of July 1, 2022. NFs providing ventilator or tracheostomy care and that qualified for a payment under Act 56 of 2021 in the quarter ending March 31, 2022 also qualify for a portion of a \$4.283 million allocation.

ARPA funding must be used for COVID-19-related costs not otherwise reimbursed by federal, state, or other sources of funding. To see the amount your facility has qualified to receive, please visit the Department of Human Services (DHS) website at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Long-Term-Care-Providers.aspx>.

Nursing Facilities Enrolled in Medical Assistance

If you are a nursing facility enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) program, no action is needed. You will see the payment appear as a gross adjustment transaction/lump sum on a PROMISE remittance advice with payment issuance occurring nine days after the transaction appears on the remittance. Disbursements will be made via check or electronic funds transfer, based on the method in which you receive PROMISE payments.

Nursing Facilities Not Enrolled in Medical Assistance

If you are a nursing facility **not** currently enrolled in the MA program, you must complete and return the ARPA Subsidy Acceptance Form for Act 54 of 2022 to receive your payment. This form is available on the DHS website at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Long-Term-Care-Providers.aspx>.

The Office of Long-Term Living will process payments in the order in which it receives ARPA Subsidy Acceptance Forms. Nursing facilities not enrolled in the MA program will receive their payments via check, 30-45 days from the date they return the ARPA Subsidy Acceptance Form. If you have registered as a commonwealth vendor, you may receive the payment via electronic funds transfer if this is your default payment method.

Important Reminders about ARPA Funding

ARPA funding must be used for necessary COVID-19-related costs not otherwise reimbursed by federal, state, or other sources of funding, and per 72 P.S. § 160-C (a)(11) and (12). You must account for the use of this funding at a facility level. That is, each qualifying nursing facility listed on the DHS website must account for the use of their specified

funding amount, even if two or more facilities are part of the same legal entity or physical location. DHS recommends all entities eligible for ARPA funding through Act 54 of 2022 consult their accountants and attorneys for further clarification on the use of and accounting for the funding. Failure to comply with the terms of the Act or DHS requirements may result in the recovery of funding through collection activities or legal action.

Providers will be required to report to DHS on the use of ARPA funding. Details of the reporting requirements, including the timing, format, and mechanism by which to send reports, will be available in coming months. However, providers should expect reporting requirements similar to those in place for previous COVID-19-related funding distributions. This includes, but is not limited to, reporting the amounts used for categories of COVID-19-related expenses like staffing, supplies, training, and information technology needs.

Declining or Returning ARPA Funding

If you choose to decline the funding for which your facility qualifies under the terms of Act 54 of 2022, you may do so by contacting the DHS Office of Long-Term Living, Bureau of Finance at covidpayments@pa.gov. Please indicate in your message the name of your facility, the amount for which you qualified, you do not wish to accept the funding and your contact information.

If you receive a payment and wish to return it, or to return any portion of the payment that will not be used for eligible COVID-19-related costs, you may do so by sending a check payable to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to:

Department of Human Services
Office of Long-Term Living
P.O. Box 8025
Harrisburg PA 17105-8025
ATTN: Bureau of Finance ARPA Return

You must include your federal tax identification number on the memo line of your check to ensure funds are credited to the correct entity.

DHS appreciates the efforts and sacrifices made by nursing facilities during the COVID-19 public health emergency. We hope this ARPA funding provides an additional resource to support the care you offer for your fellow Pennsylvanians in greatest need