

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE**

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) announces a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a grant opportunity with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 to fund worker bonuses through disbursements to HCBS providers for incentive bonuses for recruitment of direct care workers and the conversion of workers hired under temporary authorities into certified direct care staff in Medicaid service delivery among Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) providers and beneficiaries. The Director of DHCF has authority to issue grants under the Department of Health Care Finance Establishment Act of 2007, effective February 27, 2008 (D.C. Law 17-109; D.C. Official Code 7-771.05(4) (2012 Repl.).

A Request for Applications (RFA) for the below opportunity will be released under a separate announcement with guidelines for submitting the application, review criteria, and DHCF terms and conditions for applying for and receiving funding. The eligible period of performance for this grant is for recruitment or conversions of direct care workers is between April 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022. Providers are required to pay bonuses to workers no later than December 31, 2022.

Description of Opportunity:

Direct Care Worker Recruitment and Conversion Bonus Payments: The total amount of funds available across the time period of the Direct Care Worker Recruitment and Conversion Bonus Program is up to eight million, one hundred and forty thousand (\$8,140,000.00) dollars. DHCF will award as many grants as applicants who qualify in the amount of no more than \$8,140,000.00 total across all applicants and no more than \$1,500.00 per direct care worker.

The grant will be awarded to qualifying Medicaid enrolled HCBS providers and will fund bonus payments for either recruitment of new employees or conversion of direct care workers who are eligible Direct Care Workers who were hired under temporary authorities by DC Health to become licensed direct care workers. Each eligible Direct Care worker is eligible for one (1) recruitment and conversion bonus payment of \$1,500.00 if they were either a certified and newly hired direct care worker recruited between April 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022; or became a certified direct care worker between April 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022 after being hired under temporary authorities. The Direct Care Worker must still be employed at your agency as of the date the grant application package is received by DHCF.

The grant award for each grantee will be \$1,500.00 per eligible newly hired Direct Care Worker. The District will reimburse eligible Medicaid-enrolled HCBS providers for the costs associated with the provision of bonus payments for (1) recruitment of new, certified direct care staff to deliver Medicaid-reimbursable services; and (2) conversion of staff employed during the PHE through reciprocity or flexibility agreements to certified direct care staff. To be considered newly hired for purposes of funding under this initiative, a direct care worker must not have worked full-time (32 hours a week) at an enrolled Medicaid HCBS provider for at least six months prior to April 1, 2021. To be considered newly converted for purposes of funding under this initiative, a direct care worker must have provided direct care services under certification/licensing

flexibilities adopted by DC Health during the public health emergency, have received a certification as a direct care worker, and be employed at the agency at the time of grant submission. Providers must be able to demonstrate costs or planned expenditures up to the maximum amount per worker to qualify for an award. In the event a direct care worker (with an assigned NPI or otherwise identified) is employed or was employed by multiple provider agencies that are applying for bonus funds, the District will assign the direct care worker to a single agency based on hours worked over the months or years in question or based on the date the first application is received by DHCF.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must have the authority to enter into an agreement with DHCF and be in compliance with applicable District of Columbia laws and regulations. Applicants must be an organization enrolled with the District of Columbia Medicaid Program to provide Medicaid HCBS. Applicants must employ Direct Care Workers to provide Medicaid HCBS to District Medicaid beneficiaries. Direct Care Workers eligible for this initiative must provide direct care services (i.e. personal care, chore aide, respite, etc.) to Medicaid beneficiaries for at least fifty percent (50%) of their work hours at the qualified organization and have been hired under temporary licensing authority granted by DC Health. All applicants must also be registered organizations in good standing with the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), Corporation Division, the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), the Department of Employment Services (DOES), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and demonstrate Clean Hands certification at the time of application.

A RFA will be released on or around Friday, October 14th, 2022. The application package will be available online at the DHCF website (<https://dhcf.dc.gov/page/dhcf-grant-opportunities>).

DHCF will hold a pre-proposal conference on Friday, October 21, 2022 at 1:00 PM Eastern Time via [Webex](#). Applicants must provide an email address to DHCF to receive notification of amendments or clarifications to the RFA.

Completed applications must be received on or before 4:00 pm on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 to DHCF c/o taylor.woods2@dc.gov. Applicants will receive an email receipt notification to verify that their application has been received. No applications will be accepted after the submission deadline. All eligible applications will be reviewed through a competitive process.

For additional information regarding this NOFA, please contact Taylor Woods, Special Projects Officer, Health Care Policy and Research Administration at taylor.woods2@dc.gov or at 202-442-9048.