



ARPA Section 9817 Home and Community Based Services Home Health Provider Relief Payments (updated 8.21.2023)

Background and Instructions

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is pleased to announce opportunities for funding of Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) through Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. These provider relief payments are intended to help traditional home health providers continue existing services and expand the number of services provided to beneficiaries under HCBS in Medicaid. Provider relief payments will be distributed as one-time, lump sum payments. These payments can be used for increasing staff wages, hiring and/or retention bonuses, covering increased costs for providing services associated with the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, and investing in infrastructure needed by the provider to enhance or expand HCBS services for Medicaid beneficiaries.

To qualify for a provider relief payment, providers must submit the following completed materials to DHHS by October 2, 2023 in order to be considered:

- Home Health Provider Payment Data Summary File (See enclosure A, Data Layout Requirements File with layout, instructions, and example)
- Completed DHHS ACH/W9 Form (See enclosure B)
- Signed Submission Checklist and Acceptance Form (See enclosure C)

As detailed in the data layout requirements file, DHHS is instructing providers to submit the aggregate, net amount of Medicaid payments received for Home Health and Private Duty Nursing Services received, by procedure code, for dates of services between the period of July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2022. This relief payment program is limited to traditional home health medical services, other home health services, such as therapies, are not eligible. DHHS will use this information to support the payment amount determined for each eligible provider in this provider relief payment program.

The provider relief payment amounts will be determined by the department, and will not exceed the lesser of 50% of the Medicaid revenue/payments for the period or the provider's share of the remaining HCBS Provider Relief Payment pool as approved in the HCBS spend plan. Approximately \$2.7M remains in the HCBS Provider Relief Payment pool. DHHS is not requesting specific details regarding the use of these funds at this time.

Providers should submit their completed Provider Relief Payment requests to DHHS at DHHS.MedicaidHCBSARPA@Nebraska.gov. DHHS will communicate any provider payment notices, status updates, or follow up information requests within 30 days of receipt of submissions. Please submit any questions regarding this Home Health Provider relief payment program to DHHS.MedicaidHCBSARPA@Nebraska.gov.