



May 12, 2023

Secretary Jason Weida  
Agency for Health Care Administration  
2727 Mahan Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Secretary Weida:

On behalf of the Home Care Association of Florida (HCAF), I am writing to request that the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) extend the deadline for Medicaid providers to expend funds attributable to the increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for home- and community-based services (HCBS), as authorized under Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

As the trade association for the Florida home care industry, HCAF represents more than 2,200 licensed home care agencies throughout the state. Our members include providers of Medicaid HCBS, which address the needs of people with functional limitations who need assistance with everyday activities such as getting dressed and bathing. Through these services, Medicaid recipients can maintain their independence and remain in their homes for as long as possible.

The COVID-19 pandemic placed an unprecedented strain on the health care system, and the ARPA funds have been instrumental in supporting the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Section 9817 represents the most significant investment in HCBS since the inception of Medicaid waivers. Even though these funds are one-time in nature, our members collectively have been working hard to identify investments that will have long-term impacts on the health care workforce as the industry-wide shortage continues.

Given the compressed timeline for providers compared to other states and the delay in disbursing funds, we are concerned that the state will maintain its original spending deadline of June 30, 2023. As you may know, the federal spending deadline has been extended from March 31, 2024, to March 31, 2025. Many providers have expressed concerns and challenges as their time to utilize these funds approaches the current deadline. Providers should prudently implement their spending plans to maximize their long-term impact. If they are rushed to spend them, they will have diminished results.

To ensure Floridians have access to high-quality home- and community-based care, HCAF believes that extending the spending deadline to align with the federal deadline can maximize the long-term impact of the funds by enabling providers to utilize the funds for staff recruitment and retention judiciously.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have questions or need additional information, contact me at (850) 222-8967 or [blolley@homecarefla.org](mailto:blolley@homecarefla.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Lolley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bobby" and last name "Lolley" clearly distinguishable.

Bobby Lolley, RN  
Executive Director

CC: Stefan Grow, Chief of Staff, Agency for Health Care Administration  
Tom Wallace, Deputy Secretary for Health Care Finance and Data, Agency for Health Care Administration