



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

June 5, 2020

Alex Azar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS) Task Force, we are writing once again to express the urgent need for Medicaid providers of LTSS, including Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), for people with disabilities to be included in the distribution of funds from the Public Health and Social Services Fund (PHSSF). We were grateful to Chairs Grassley and Pallone and Ranking Members Wyden and Walden for highlighting this urgent need in their June 3<sup>rd</sup> letter to you.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The LTSS Task Force focuses on ensuring that people with disabilities and aging adults have access to the LTSS, particularly Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), they need to live, work and participate in their communities.

As noted in our March 31<sup>st</sup> letter, a significant number of individuals with disabilities and older adults rely on Medicaid-funded LTSS. If none of the PHSSF funds are distributed to Medicaid HCBS it is evident that we risk seriously exacerbating this crisis by threatening the health and housing stability of these individuals. By allocating funding to Medicaid HCBS, we can assure that people with disabilities who do not require hospitalization will be able to receive the crucial care they need when they become ill from the coronavirus.

However, it has been weeks since HHS' Medicaid collection efforts began, and still no funds have been distributed to HCBS providers. Medicaid HCBS providers do not have the resources to wait any longer for this support. HHS must act now to preserve a service system that can meet the needs of Americans with disabilities by delivering immediate and meaningful funding to keep the providers who support them afloat.

Further, states are making decisions right now about how to manage significant revenue shortfalls resulting from the economic downturn associated with this pandemic. In order to effectively use

increasingly scarce Medicaid resources to maintain capacity to serve individuals with disabilities, states need certainty and predictability regarding non-Medicaid federal funding to HCBS providers. HHS must make information about the methodology it will use to distribute funding to these providers, as well as the timing of such distributions, available to states so that they can predict need and deploy resources to shore up vulnerabilities in the provider network.

We urge HHS to make immediate and significant funding for Medicaid HCBS providers a top priority. We also request that HHS publish as soon as possible the methodology it will use to determine allocation of Public Health & Social Services Funds to HCBS providers. The CCD LTSS Task Force stands ready to work with HHS to facilitate all necessary communication with states to achieve these goals. For more information or to discuss further, please contact Sarah Meek at [smeek@ancor.org](mailto:smeek@ancor.org).

Sincerely,

Alison Barkoff, Co-chair  
Center for Public Representation

Julia Bascom, Co-chair  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Dan Berland, Co-chair  
National Association of State Directors of  
Developmental Disabilities Services

Nicole Jorwic, Co-chair  
The Arc of the United States

Sarah Meek, Co-chair  
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Resources (ANCOR)

Cc: Administrator Seema Verma  
Deputy Administrator & Director Calder Lynch  
Chair Chuck Grassley  
Chair Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member Greg Walden