



## HCBS Provider Readiness Grants FAQs

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For more information, please visit the [FSSA HCBS webpage](#).

### **What are the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Provider Readiness Grants?**

As part of FSSA's [Home and Community-Based Services Spend Plan](#), OMPP is issuing grants to qualifying providers to invest in HCBS LTSS provider success in a managed care system. The purpose of the grant is to support providers as they participate in the 7 HCBS Provider Readiness Trainings, collaborate with managed care entities for contract readiness and develop their organization's readiness plan. FSSA recognizes the lift it takes for providers to transition to a new system and prioritizes supporting providers as they prepare for 2024.

OMPP is awarding one-time funds at \$20,000 per grant to support the implementation of a readiness project. These grant funds serve to compensate HCBS LTSS providers for time away from their day-to-day agency work to complete required HCBS Provider Readiness Trainings and develop and implement a provider readiness project.

### **Which Medicaid provider categories qualify to receive the grant?**

To be eligible for the HCBS Provider Readiness Grant, providers must be an IHCP approved HCBS Aged and Disabled Waiver provider.

### **What is the required provider attestation process?**

Providers are required to sign the online Attestations Form available at this [link](#) in order to be eligible to receive a grant payment. Providers must attest to completing the sessions of business acumen training provided by OMPP, and developing and implementing a business readiness project that meets the goals and requirements of the grant. By accepting the grant payment, providers attest they are subject to audit by the State of Indiana. The providers should maintain documentation and any records regarding how the amount received was expended so that it can be available upon audit.

### **How does a qualified provider demonstrate eligibility for the HCBS Provider Readiness Grant?**



For Round 2, to demonstrate eligibility for the Provider Readiness grant, providers will need to **submit a completed Provider Readiness Grant Program Attestation Form by March 28, 2023**. For providers with more than one eligible IHCP Provider ID, one form is necessary for each active enrollment. If providers' nine-digit Medicaid Provider ID includes a letter as the last character, please include the letter on the attestation form.

For Round 1, to demonstrate eligibility for the Provider Readiness grant, providers will need to submit a completed Provider Readiness Grant Program Attestation Form by Oct. 13, 2022. For providers with more than one eligible IHCP Provider ID, one form is necessary for each active enrollment. If providers' nine-digit Medicaid Provider ID includes a letter as the last character, please include the letter on the attestation form.

**Do I need to submit one Attestation Form per Medicaid Provider ID?**

Yes. Providers must submit one complete Attestation Form for each Medicaid Provider ID. The Medicaid Provider ID is a nine-digit number. If you provide services in multiple locations, please include the letter at the end of your nine-digit Medicaid Provider ID.

**When will the grants be distributed? Once a provider submits their attestation, how quickly will they receive payment?**

For Round 2, FSSA will distribute grants to eligible providers early May 2023.

**What are allowable expenses for the HCBS Provider Readiness Grants?**

Grant funds must be used to support provider operations as they relate to HCBS provider readiness:

1. Complete the Business Acumen Training announced by OMPP before June 30, 2023
2. Develop and implement a readiness project that prepares your agency for MLTSS and leads to better health outcomes for the Hoosiers you serve

**What are the HCBS Provider Readiness Trainings**

Throughout September and October, 2022, ADvancing States will host 7 training sessions for HCBS providers preparing to partner with health plans to deliver HCBS long-term services and supports (LTSS) in 2024. Similar to the spring sessions, the fall sessions will be recorded and posted on [informindiana.com](http://informindiana.com). Providers can view more information on these sessions in coming IHCP bulletins, on [informindiana.com](http://informindiana.com), and in publications from trade organizations.



**As a provider is there a time frame in which these funds need to be expended?**

The intent of the grant is to compensate HCBS LTSS providers for time away from their day-to-day agency work as they work towards MLTSS provider readiness. We encourage providers to expend the funds immediately and obligate the funds by the final report deadline of June 30, 2023. Providers are required to spend all funds by December 31, 2023.

**What are examples of potential readiness projects?**

Providers are required to develop a readiness project that fulfills the objectives of the grant. OMPP encourages providers to consider the following examples of readiness projects:

1. Develop a training curriculum for your agency to operate with managed care entities to include areas such as billing with different health plans, submitting prior authorization requests with different health plans, collecting and presenting agency data to health plans, etc. Additionally, develop an engagement strategy to implement with staff who will be performing these job functions.
2. Address staffing shortage within rural service areas
3. Implement innovative staffing models within your individual agency to recruit and retain direct service professionals
4. Increase technology use to improve efficiencies among staff and coordinate with members and their circle of support about change in health, social determinants of health or other life circumstances
5. Build interest in competitive, integrated employment opportunities
6. Demonstrate a care coordination model identifying the provider's function with health plans, an enrollment services broker, member services broker, a member/family
7. Explore expanding or adjusting service models to more specifically meet the needs of individuals with physical disabilities or brain injuries

**For audit purposes, are awarded providers considered beneficiaries or subrecipients?**

Awarded providers are beneficiaries.

**Is the grant amount received from the HCBS Provider Readiness grant considered taxable income?**

Yes, the grant funds are considered as regular reimbursement money and will be



taxable.

**If I am unable to spend my full grant amount in line with the grant requirements, will I be expected to return the remaining funds?**

Yes- however, we strongly encourage providers to spend their full grant amounts if possible.

**What reporting requirements are anticipated for this grant?**

Grantees will be required to submit a brief **final report** confirming attendance to the Business Acumen Trainings and outlining the development and implementation of their readiness project by **June 30, 2023**. Failure to submit the final report could result in the provider having to return the funds.

**How do stakeholders provide feedback, comments, questions?**

FSSA welcomes stakeholder feedback through the dedicated inbox. Please direct all comments and questions to [hcbs.spendplan@fssa.in.gov](mailto:hcbs.spendplan@fssa.in.gov)

**Where can stakeholders learn more about Indiana's HCBS Spend Plan?**

To learn more about Indiana's plan for the HCBS enhanced FMAP funds, please visit <https://www.in.gov/fssa/ompp/hcbs-enhanced-fmap-spending-plan/>.