

State Program Member Open Forum: Responding to COVID-19

March 23, 2020

Agenda for Today

- Discuss promising practices and challenges related to responding to the national COVID-19 outbreak
 - 35,418 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S. as of this morning
- We encourage states to join in the discussion. If you would like to share information with the group without identifying yourself, you are welcome to share your comment in writing in the Q&A pod. We will share your comment anonymously with the group.

Today's Speakers from Applied Self-Direction

- Mollie Murphy, Principal
- Kate Murray, Principal
- Casey DeLuca, Membership Director
- James Toews, Executive Technical Assistance (TA) Consultant
- Merle Edwards-Orr, Executive TA Consultant
- Molly Morris, Senior TA Consultant
- Highsmith Rich, TA and Research Analyst

Emergency Response Tools

- 1135 waiver
 - Can be requested in the event the U.S. President declares a national emergency or disaster
 - Approved 1135 waivers modify or waive federal requirements for Medicaid programs
- Appendix K for 1915(c) waiver
 - Can be used to modify waiver rules and requirements
 - E.g., can be invoked to pay workers for paid time off and/or time spent assisting participants in the hospital
- Medicaid State Plan Amendments
- 1115 demonstration and evaluation waivers

Reminders

- If rule changes are needed, document the reasons why changes are needed
- Communicate closely with your Financial Management Services and Information and Assistance personnel
- Ensure Financial Management Services entity has adequate funds and cash flow to handle spikes in utilization or unforeseen events

What is your state presently planning to do with regard to self-direction?

- Feel free to share just one thing or your overall plan
 - Examples: waiving background check requirements or moving to a conditional check system, conducting case management meetings via telephone, etc.

What are the biggest challenges or obstacles you are facing?

Are you hearing that workers or participants in your state are becoming sick?

Is it feasible for your state to cover paid sick leave for employees in the Fiscal/Employer Agent (participant as sole employer) model of FMS?

- This is a new requirement of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed into law last week
- Employers with 50 or fewer employees can request exemption from the Department of Labor

What resources from Applied Self-Direction would help your work the most?

- We are here to help and want to make sure our work is responsive to states' needs
- Examples of possible future resources:
 - Analysis of other states' emergency response measures
 - Additional open forum calls with states
 - Webinars or written resources analyzing new federal policies related to COVID-19

Thank You!

