



# Fact Sheet: The HCBS Relief Act of 2023



## Why is the HCBS Relief Act Needed?

In the US, there are 61 million people with disabilities, many of whom rely on Medicaid long-term services and supports (LTSS) to support their everyday needs, from assistance with activities of daily living to community integration supports. While most individuals prefer to receive these services in their own homes, a longstanding workforce shortage of direct support workers hinders individuals' access to community-based services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, extra funding for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) helped states and providers retain workers and provide services to more people through temporary investments such as providing worker bonuses and hazard pay and expanding HCBS eligibility criteria. But with that pandemic HCBS funding ending, providers are concerned that high turnover and vacancy rates will worsen.

## What Would the HCBS Relief Act Do?

The HCBS Relief Act of 2023 extends much-needed support for the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services program similar to the COVID-19 relief funding authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The bill would:

- Provide a 10-percentage-point increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for home and community-based services during 2024 and 2025
- Enable states and providers to strengthen the direct support workforce
- Ensure better access to I/DD services

In a 2023 ANCOR survey of community-based providers of disability services:

- 77% of providers reported that they have turned away new referrals
- 44% have discontinued programs and services
- 60% are concerned that they will need to discontinue more unless high staff turnover decreases

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