



AADD
ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
P.O. Box 241742 Anchorage,
Alaska 99524

To facilitate a united provider voice for best practices, advocacy, partnerships and networking.

July 26, 2021

Dear John:

AADD feels obligated to respectfully share the grave disappointment providers feel about the 10% FMAP Plan submitted to CMS for the state of Alaska.

Providers are desperate for this funding, designed to sustain them as they struggle deeply with obtaining and keeping workforce combined with the budgetary constraints. The income providers were able to bill for prior to COVID has been reduced significantly and many expenses (infrastructure and management personnel) remain the same. And COVID has added costs to organizations from FMLA to quarantine costs and PPE. Providers hoped, at a minimum that the 10% FMAP funding would help say thank you and retain those who have worked so hard, and/or the funding would help with recruitment amid "The Great Resignation" of 2021.

Instead the plan dedicates a full 89% to initiatives that providers **do not** have the staffing or capacity to take on at this time. Do we want every single person with a Developmental Delay out of API? A resounding "yes". We do. However, the provider world is constrained by a harsh reality. The reality of not enough staff to manage the services we offer now. One provider reports a doubled recruitment budget with a stubborn vacancy rate. To have a mere 11% of the 27 million dollars of funding dedicated to the workforce issue is disheartening. And the workforce project, as designed, requires providers to both free up DSP's when there aren't enough staff for coverage now and to pay the DSP salary's that can't be billed. We are disappointed at the level allotted to workforce and even more disappointed that it doesn't include either direct funding for retention (bonuses) or recruitment.

We appreciate that you heard the recommendation we supported to transition folks out of institutions. This has long been a goal of the state and AADD. But to dedicate 89% of the funds to that goal and so little to the workforce crisis has taken away the hope that providers looked forward to with this Legislative attempt to support providers. This plan does not support providers under the current circumstances.

We appreciate the funding in the plan to support care coordinators in developing plans for moving individuals back into the community. As we discussed in our meeting, this project will help us work together to tackle the care coordination crisis. It dovetails nicely with the study AADD is proposing to both look at duties and caseloads and associated rates. This will allow us to work together to address a small portion of the workforce.

Sincerely,

Lizette Stiehr
Executive Director
AADD

Sincerely,

Amanda Faulkner
President
AADD