



July 20, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

The undersigned disability service providers and associations representing disability service providers write to share our overwhelming support for the *full* \$400 billion investment included in the Build Back Better Agenda to support expanded access to Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and recruitment and retention of direct care workers that support people who rely on HCBS.

The bold proposals in the Build Back Better Agenda and the temporary 10-percent increase in the Federal Match Assistance Percentage (FMAP) that was included in the American Rescue Plan Act are critical steps to strengthen and expand access to Medicaid HCBS, and we are so appreciative of them. At the same time, we must grapple with the harsh reality that one year of funding cannot address the roots of a crisis that, although significantly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has existed for decades: the systemic under-resourcing of the direct care workforce. The effects of underinvestment in the direct care workforce can be seen in turnover rates among direct support professionals that hover near 50 percent nationally. The resulting inaccessibility of HCBS for people with disabilities is in turn evidenced by the nearly 600,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) on states' ever-growing HCBS waiting lists. These waiting lists leave people with disabilities and their families waiting years and even decades for services.

These relentless challenges illustrate why \$400 billion in dedicated support for HCBS is essential to include in the Build Back Better Agenda. This level of investment is essential for building a sustainable HCBS infrastructure that can once and for all begin addressing the magnitude of unmet need in our communities. This funding would not only strengthen the ability of people with disabilities and our aging neighbors to live a life with dignity in their communities, but it would also shore up the direct care workforce—which is predominantly composed of women and workers of color—to create countless jobs and strengthen local economies.

Unfortunately, our need to write to you to express the urgency of preserving this funding is driven by misinformation that is currently circulating regarding how an investment in HCBS may impact other types of services for people with disabilities. It is critical that you be aware that nothing in the Better Care Better Jobs Act

or any of the Biden administration's proposals regarding investments in Medicaid HCBS would take away any funding for any other Medicaid services. People with disabilities being supported in congregate care settings would not see any of their existing services diminished.

What this investment would do, however, is repair cracks in the existing infrastructure and create infrastructure that was never built to ensure HCBS is within reach for the nearly one million families currently waiting. HCBS has grown exponentially since its inception 40 years ago and now plays an outsized role in ensuring people can be supported in the community, rather than being warehoused in large, state-run institutions. However, absent the necessary infrastructure investments—particularly in an overworked, underpaid and underappreciated direct care workforce—the Medicaid HCBS program will continue falling far short of reaching everyone in need.

Time and again, you have shown your leadership in supporting people with disabilities and our aging neighbors; we remain grateful for that leadership and now respectfully ask that you lead the way once more. We urge you to prioritize the needs of people with disabilities by preserving the proposed \$400 billion investment in the Medicaid HCBS program, including the 1 million+ workers who deliver the program's essential services.

As you do, we stand ready to assist you in any way we can. If you have questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact Sarah Meek, ANCOR's Senior Director of Legislative Affairs, at smeek@ancor.org.

Sincerely,

ANCOR (American Network of Community Options & Resources), on behalf of the undersigned provider organizations and provider associations

Alabama

Alabama Service Providers Association (statewide trade association)

ARC – Baldwin County, Inc.

Benchmark Human Services*

Blount/St. Clair 310 Board

Bridget's Home, Inc.

Hope*

Inspiritus, Inc.*

The Arc of Central Alabama

The Arc of Fayette, Lamar and Marengo Counties, Inc.

United Ability

VOA Southeast*

West Alabama Mental Health Center

Alaska

Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (statewide trade association)

Consumer Direct Care Network*

Arizona

Acumen Inc.*

Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities (statewide trade association)
Consumer Direct Care Network*
Mosaic*
RISE Inc.*

Arkansas

Benchmark Human Services*
Easterseals Arkansas

California

Bayberry, Inc.
Bethesda Lutheran Communities*
California Disability Services Association (statewide trade association)
Dungarvin*
Lifehouse, Inc.
Mains' I Services*
Momentum
PathPoint
UCP of the North Bay

Colorado

Alliance Colorado (statewide trade association)
Bethesda Lutheran Communities*
Consumer Direct Care Network*
Dungarvin*
Imagine!
Mosaic*
Parker Personal Care Homes

Connecticut

ARI of Connecticut Inc.
Ascentria Care Alliance*
Aspire Living & Learning*
Benchmark Human Services*
Community Residences, Inc.
Corporation for Independent Living (CIL)*
CRI
Dungarvin*
KenCrest*
Keystone Human Services*
MidState Arc, Inc.
Mosaic*
Network, Inc.
Oak Hill – Easterseals

SARAH Inc.
Viability, Inc.*

Delaware

Bancroft*
Chimes International Ltd.*
Consumer Direct Care Network*
JEVS Human Services*
KenCrest*
Keystone Human Services*
Mosaic*

District of Columbia

Consumer Direct Care Network*
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers (district-wide trade association)
RCM of Washington

Florida

Benchmark Human Services*
Community Based Care, LLC*
Consumer Direct Care Network*
Mains' I Services*
RISE Inc*

Georgia

Benchmark Human Services*
Complete Care at Home
Diversified Enterprises
EmployAbility
Friends of L'Arche Atlanta, Inc.
Griffin Area Resource Center
Incommunity
Inspiritus, Inc.*
Service Providers Association for Developmental Disabilities (statewide trade association)
The Jessamine Place
Tift County Board of Health
United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia
VOA Southeast*

Idaho

Center for Independent Living
Consumer Direct Care Network*
Milestone Decisions
RISE Inc.*

Illinois

AC LifePoints
Ada S. McKinley Community Services*
Bethesda Lutheran Communities*
Blue Cap
CCAR Industries
Community Support Systems
Cornerstone Services
Covenant Enabling Residences
EP!C
FAYCO Enterprises, Inc.
Garden Center Services
Gateway Services, Inc.
Glenkirk
Goldie B. Floberg Center
Hope*
Horizon House of Illinois Valley, Inc.
IARF – Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (statewide trade association)
Illinois Valley Industries
Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities (statewide trade association)
JCFS Chicago
Little City Foundation
Little Friends, Inc.
Milestone, Inc.
Mosaic*
Opportunity House, Inc.
Orchard Village
Ottawa Friendship House
Progressive Careers & Housing
Ray Graham Association
Southern Illinois Community Support Services
St. Coletta's of Illinois, Inc.
Streator Unlimited, Inc.
Transitions of Western Illinois
Trinity Services
UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago

Indiana

Ada S. McKinley Community Services*
Benchmark Human Services*
Down Syndrome of Louisville*
Dungarvin*
Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana
Easterseals Crossroads

Home Services Unlimited Inc.
INARF (statewide trade association)
IPMG, Inc.
Mosaic*
Oasis Tech Group*
Tanagram, Inc.
Trinity Services, Inc.

Iowa

Abbe Center for Community Mental Health
Area Residential Care
Candeo
Caring Hearts of West Central Iowa
Central Iowa Residential Services, Inc.
Christian Opportunity Center
Client Community Services, Inc.*
Community Support Advocates
Comprehensive Systems
Crest Services*
Crossroads, Inc.
EPI
First Resource Corp.
Friendship Ark, Inc.
Hills & Dales
Hope Haven Area Development Corporation
Horizons Unlimited
Iowa Association of Community Providers (statewide trade association)
Link Associates
Lutheran Services in Iowa
Mainstream Living, Inc.
Mid-Step Services
Monroe County Professional Management
Mosaic*
New Hope Village
Nishna Productions, Inc.
One Vision
Premier Payee Inc.
Systems Unlimited Inc.
TASC, Inc.
The Arc of East Central Iowa
The Arc of Southeast Iowa
The Larrabee Center, Inc.
Vera French Community Mental Health Center
Village Northwest Unlimited

Wesco Industries

Kansas

Bethesda Lutheran Communities*
Big Lakes Developmental Center, Inc.
Flinthills Services, Inc.
Harvey-Marion County CDDO
InterHab (statewide trade association)
Johnson County Developmental Supports
Mosaic*
Nemaha County Training Center
OCCK, Inc.
Riverside Resources, Inc.
Tri-Ko, Inc.

Kentucky

A Brighter Choice
Advantage Case Management
Advocate Homes
AlmCare, LLC
Anchor Center
Aspire Case Management
Barrowman Case Management
Blue Sky Case Management
Bluegrass Independent Case Management
Cedar Lake
Commonwealth Nursing Solutions
Coons Care, LLC
Down Syndrome of Louisville*
Dungarvin*
Evergreen Community Supports, LLC
Everyday Matters, LLC
Faith Harbor
Home and Community Options, Inc.
Hope of KY
Home of the Innocents
Kentucky Association of Private Providers (statewide trade association)
Kentucky Case Management
LifeSkills Inc.
Mains'I Services*
Mariposa
Marpe Therapy Services
Mending Hearts
Newcare of Louisville, LLC

Oasis Tech Group*
Opportunity Center of Owensboro
Path Forward Kentucky
Peak Community Supports, Inc.
Pillar
Quality Care
Reach for Resources, Inc.
Reach for the Stars Case Mgt. LLC
Redwood
Seven Counties Services
The Adanta Group
The PrinceCare Group
Therapeutic Intervention Services, PLLC
Wendell Foster
Zoom Group

Louisiana

Care Inc.
Community Provider Association (statewide trade association)

Maine

Ascentria Care Alliance*
BFLI
Central Aroostook Association
Coastal Opportunities
Community Living Association
Creative Options, LLC
Creative Works
Great Bay Services, Inc.*
Green Valley Association
Happy Haven
Independence Advocates of Maine
John F. Murphy Homes, Inc.
Life Enrichment Advancing People (LEAP, Inc.)
Maine Association for Community Service Providers (MACSP) (statewide trade association)
Mosaic*
Opportunity Enterprises, Inc.
Our Homes South, Inc.
Penquis
Personal Onsite Development
Tri-County Mental Health Services
Uplift, Inc.

Maryland

Aspire Living & Learning*
Benchmark Human Services*
Chimes International Ltd.*
Community Residences, Inc.*
Maryland Association of Community Services (statewide trade association)

Massachusetts

Advocates, Inc.
Ascentria Care Alliance*
Aspire Living & Learning*
Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (statewide trade association)
Corporation for Independent Living (CIL)*
Hope*
The PLUS Company*
Valley Collaborative
Viability, Inc.*

Michigan

Bethesda Lutheran Communities*
Covenant Enabling Services*

Minnesota

Ability Building Community
ABLE Inc.
Accessible Space*
Accord
Altair ACO Inc.
AME Community Services, Inc.
Arrowhead House Foster Care
Aveyron Homes, Inc.
Beacon Specialized Living
Bear Creek Services
Best Care
Bethesda Lutheran Communities*
Blue Sky, Inc.
CCRI
Client Community Services, Inc.*
Community Options & Resources
Connections, Inc.
Consumer Direct Care Network*
Covenant Enabling Services*
Crest Services*
Dose Health*

Dungarvin*
EGH, Inc.
Epic Enterprise, Inc.
Fairchild's Foster Care
Fraser
Great River Homes, Inc.
Hammer Residences
Hiawatha Homes
Hope*
Hope House of St. Croix Valley
Inspired Home Care Services, Inc.
Laura Baker Services Association
Laurent Clerc Services, Inc.
Lifetime Resources, Inc.
Lifeworks
Linnea Residential Home Inc.
Living Well Disability Services
Mains'I Services*
Maple Leaf Services Inc.
Marshall County Group Homes, Inc.
Minnesota First Community Solutions
Mount Olivet Rolling Acres
NHS Northstar
Northeast Contemporary Services, Inc.
Olu's Home, Inc.
Opportunity Partners
Options Minnesota
Options Residential, Inc.
Outcomes, Inc.
Pine River Group Home, Inc.
Pinewood
PossAbilities of Southern Minnesota
Reach for Resources
Residential Services of Northeast MN, Inc.
Riverview Services, Inc.
Safe Transitions
Share-A-Home, Inc.
SMB Disability Solutions
Stepping Stones for Living
Swift County Developmental Achievement Center
The Phoenix Residence, Inc. and Phoenix Service Corporation
TSE Inc.
Volunteers of America, MN and WI*
Winona County DAC

Mississippi

VOA Southeast*

Missouri

ACT

Benchmark Human Services*

Bethesda Lutheran Communities*

Center for Developmentally Disabled

Center for Human Services

Chariton Valley Association, Inc.

Developing Potential, Inc.

MARF (statewide trade association)

St. Louis Arc

UCP Heartland

Montana

Benchmark Human Services*

Consumer Direct Care Network*

Nebraska

Mosaic*

Nebraska Association of Service Providers (statewide trade association)

Nevada

Accessible Space*

Consumer Direct Care Network*

Dungarvin*

New Hampshire

Ascentria Care Alliance*

Aspire Living & Learning*

Great Bear Services, Inc.*

Mosaic*

The PLUS Company*

New Jersey

Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (statewide trade association)

Bancroft*

Benchmark Human Services*

Bethesda Lutheran Communities*

Chimes International Ltd.*

Dungarvin*

Eden Autism Services

JEVS Human Services*
Keystone Human Services*
Mosaic*
New Jersey Association of Community Providers (statewide trade association)

New Mexico

Benchmark Human Services*
Consumer Direct Care Network*
Dungarvin*

New York

East End Disability Associates
Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc.
InterAgency Council (statewide trade association)
Lochland, Inc.
Mains'I Services*
New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation (statewide trade association)
Racker
Richmond Community Services
The Arc Mid-Hudson
Viability, Inc.*

North Carolina

A Small Miracle
Community Based Care, LLC*
Dungarvin*

Ohio

Benchmark Human Services*
Capabilities, LLC
Community Employment For All (CEFA)
Dose Health*
Dungarvin*
NCC Solutions, Inc.
Open Options, Inc.
Work Leads to Independence

Oklahoma

Dungarvin*
Viability, Inc.*

Oregon

Bethesda Lutheran Communities*
Dungarvin*

Dose Health*

RISE Inc.*

Pennsylvania

Bancroft*

Chimes International Ltd.*

Community Services Group, Inc.

Fayette Resources, Inc.

Jami Residences, LLC

JEVS Human Services*

KenCrest*

Keystone Human Services*

Lehigh Valley Adult Services, Hope Centers

LifePath Inc.

Martha Lloyd Community Services

PAR (statewide trade association)

Partners in Progress, Inc.

Pennsylvania Integrative Clinical Services

Rankin Christian Center

Shared Support, Inc.

SPIN (Special People in Northeast, Inc.)

Supportive Behavioral Resources, Inc.

The Shadowfax Corporation

Threshold Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

Valley Community Services

Rhode Island

Community Provider Network of RI (statewide trade association)

Mosaic*

Viability, Inc.*

West Bay RI

South Carolina

Cornerstone Support Services, LLC

Georgetown County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs

Horry County Disabilities & Special Needs

The Disabilities Board of Charleston County

United Cerebral Palsy of South Carolina

South Dakota

Benchmark Human Services*

Community Support Providers of South Dakota

Tennessee

Hope*

Inspiritus, Inc.*

Tennessee Community Organizations (statewide trade association)

Texas

Consumer Direct Care Network*

Private Providers Association of Texas (PPAT) (statewide trade association)

Providers Alliance for Community Services of Texas (statewide trade association)

RISE Inc.*

Volunteers of America, Texas

Utah

RISE Inc.*

Vermont

Ascentria Care Alliance*

Champlain Community Services

Families First

Green Mountain Support Services

Lincoln Street Inc.

Mosaic*

United Counseling Service

Vermont Care Partners (statewide trade association)

Virginia

Benchmark Human Services*

Chimes International Ltd.*

Community Based Care, LLC*

Community Residences, Inc.*

Consumer Direct Care Network*

Sunrise Community of Virginia

Virginia Association of Community Rehabilitation Programs (vaACCSES) (statewide trade association)

Washington

Bethesda Lutheran Communities*

Community Residential Services Association (statewide trade association)

Consumer Direct Care Network*

West Virginia

REM West Virginia

Wisconsin

Ada S. McKinley Community Services*

Consumer Direct Care Network*
Dose Health*
Dungarvin*
Limitless Possibilities LLC
Volunteers of America, MN and WI*

*Multi-state provider