August 2, 2021

Amanda Cassel-Kraft
Assistant Secretary for MassHealth
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms. Cassel-Kraft:

The July 23, 2021 letter that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) sent regarding the initial spending plan and spending narrative that Massachusetts submitted on June 17, 2021 indicated that CMS would need to follow-up with the state to determine whether capital investments are permissible uses of funds to expand, enhance, or strengthen HCBS under section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). CMS has determined that capital investments are permissible uses of funds to expand, enhance, or strengthen HCBS under section 9817 of the ARP. However, states must demonstrate how capital investments would expand, enhance, or strengthen HCBS and ensure that the capital investments will result in settings that are fully compliant with the home and community-based settings criteria. Further, approval of capital investments in ARP section 9817 spending plans and narratives does not authorize such activities for federal financial participation (FFP). Please do not hesitate to contact CMS at HCBSincreasedFMAP@cms.hhs.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
Director, Division of Community Systems Transformation

cc: Whitney Moyer