June 10, 2021

Anne Marie Costello  
Acting Deputy Administrator and Director  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Costello:

Oregon would like to take this opportunity to submit the initial spending plan and narrative related to the Home and Community-Based Services increased FMAP offered through Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan. The increased FMAP will allow us to use these funds to enhance our HCBS system and supplement LTSS services. Our purpose for this submission is to utilize the additional funding to enhance and supplement our existing system across all program areas. We will use this funding to provide both one-time spending for projects that will enhance our outreach, communication, and training to the individuals we serve as well as for enhanced training, recruitment, and retention of LTSS providers. In addition, we are proposing a myriad of one-time payments and short-term increased payment rates to our Medicaid providers in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The goals for these proposals are better outcomes for individuals who utilize LTSS and to strengthen and stabilize a provider network that continues to overcome obstacles created by an unprecedented pandemic.

The attached documents detail our initial spending plan projections and spending narrative. The initial HCBS spending plan projection provides estimates of the total amount of funds attributable to the increase in FMAP that Oregon anticipates claiming between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022, as well as the anticipated expenditures for the activities Oregon intends to implement to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS under the state Medicaid program between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2024. The initial spending narrative provides information on the state’s required ARP section 9817 activities and the connection between the spending plan projection and the scope of the activities. The narrative is intended to demonstrate that the state’s activities enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS under Oregon’s Medicaid program. Finally, the plan will detail how Oregon intends to sustain ongoing activities beyond March 31, 2024.

Oregon makes the following assurances related to this submission:

- The state is using the federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP to supplement and not supplant existing state funds expended for Medicaid HCBS in effect as of April 1, 2021;
- The state is using the state funds equivalent to the amount of federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP to implement or supplement the implementation
of one or more activities to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS under the Medicaid program;

- The state is not imposing stricter eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures for HCBS programs and services than were in place on April 1, 2021;
- The state is preserving covered HCBS, including the services themselves and the amount, duration, and scope of those services, in effect as of April 1, 2021; and
- The state is maintaining HCBS provider payments at a rate no less than those in place as of April 1, 2021.

Oregon’s designated state point of contact for the quarterly spending plan and narrative submissions will be Dana Hittle, Deputy Medicaid Director. Ms. Hittle can be reached at (503) 991-3011 and by email at Dana.Hittle@dhsoha.state.or.us.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Allen
Director

ENC: OHA ODHS HCBS Enhanced Funding Spend Plan and Narrative