

Welcome!

We will begin shortly. All lines have been automatically muted.

Please mute your phone AND computer microphone to avoid feedback.

Please do not put us on hold during today's meeting.

Please hold questions until the Q & A portion of the meeting.

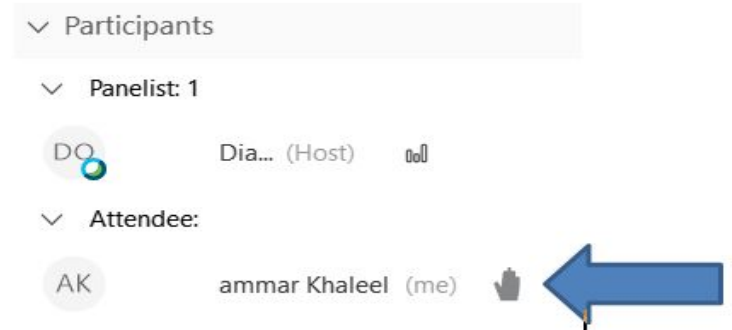
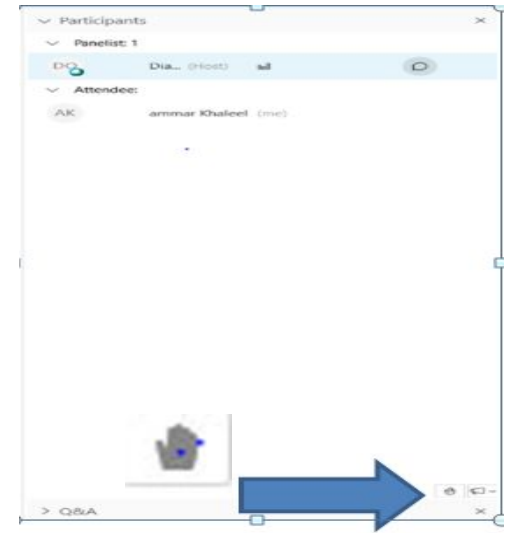
If you are joining via web, there are two ways to ask questions:

1. Utilizing the chat feature
2. Raise your hand to be unmuted

Raising Your Hand

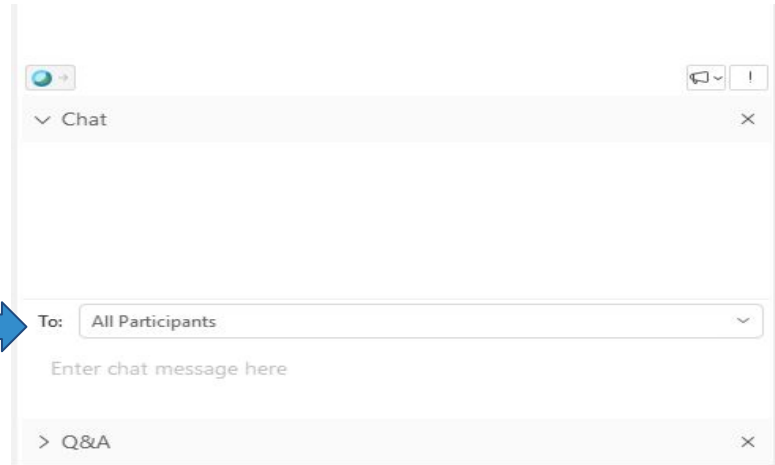
Use the 'Raise Hand' button in the 'Participants' panel to ask/answer a question:

- Remember to unraise your hand when you are done addressing your comment/question



Use Chat

Use the chat window to chat with the host, panelists:





Arizona AHCCCS COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 Response Effort

Special Tribal Consultation
June 04, 2020

Where do I find the latest information about COVID-19?

- AHCCCS updates the FAQ document daily to reflect the latest guidance for providers, members and plans.
- Please find guidance at: <https://azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/covid19FAQ.html>
- These are in English and Spanish.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the AHCCCS website. It includes links for 'State Agencies', 'State Services', 'Visit OpenBooks', and 'Ombudsman-Citizens Aide'. On the right, there is a search bar labeled 'AZ.Gov' and the 'az.gov' logo. Below the navigation bar is a yellow banner with the text 'Learn more about coronavirus (COVID-19)'. A large red arrow points from the right side of the banner towards the text. Below the banner is the AHCCCS logo (Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System) on the left, a photograph of a diverse group of people in the center, and a 'Google Custom Search' box on the right with a search button and the text 'Advanced search' below it.

COVID-19 Information

AHCCCS is responding to an outbreak of respiratory illness, called COVID-19, caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. Health officials urge good hand washing hygiene, covering coughs, and staying home if you are sick.

On March 11, Governor Doug Ducey issued a [Declaration of Emergency](#)  and an [Executive Order](#)  regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in Arizona, and subsequent [Executive Orders](#)  with further administrative actions.

On March 17, 2020, AHCCCS [submitted a request](#) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to waive certain Medicaid and KidsCare requirements in order to ensure ongoing access to care over the course of the COVID-19 outbreak. As of March 23, AHCCCS has received federal approval to implement programmatic changes to help ensure access to health care for vulnerable Arizonans.

To address Medicaid-related questions from providers and contractors about COVID-19, AHCCCS has developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), updated regularly as more information becomes available.

[COVID-19 FAQs](#)

Learn how to protect yourself and stop the spread of COVID-19. Visit azdhs.gov/COVID19  and cdc.gov/COVID19 .

If you are an AHCCCS member who is experiencing flu-like symptoms, please call the 24-hour Nurse Line for your health plan (listed below):

24-Hour Nurse Line Numbers by Health Plan

Health Plan

Nurse Line Number



▼ Oversight of Health Plans

▲ Governmental Oversight

Federal and State Requirements

Legislative Sessions

Waiver



PCH SNCP Technical Amendment

COVID-19 Federal Emergency Authorities Request

IMD Waiver Amendment

SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal

American Indian Initiatives

Mental Health Parity

County Acute Care Contributions

Grants

Hospital Finance & Utilization Information

COVID-19 Federal Emergency Authorities Request

On March 17 and March 24, 2020, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) submitted requests to the Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to waive certain Medicaid and KidsCare requirements to enable the State to combat the continued spread of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). AHCCCS is seeking a broad range of emergency authorities to:

- Strengthen the provider workforce and remove barriers to care for AHCCCS members
- Enhance Medicaid services and supports for vulnerable members for the duration of the emergency period
- Remove cost sharing and other administrative requirements to support continued access to services

Arizona's request to CMS is posted below:

- [Letter To CMS Administrator on COVID-19 Flexibilities](#) (submitted March 17, 2020)
- [Summary of Additional COVID-19 Flexibility Requests](#) (submitted March 24, 2020)
- [Summary of Additional COVID-19 Flexibility Requests](#) (submitted April 17, 2020)

- [Status of AHCCCS Emergency Authority Requests](#) (updated May 27, 2020)

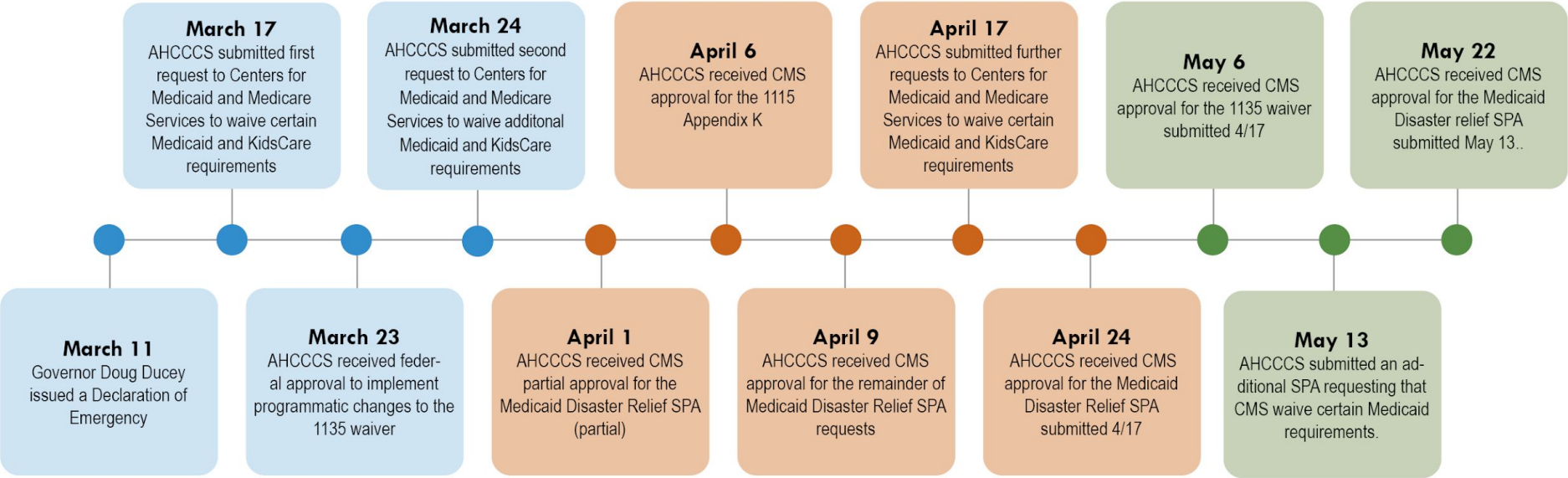


CMS approved components of Arizona's request under the 1135 Waiver, Appendix K and State Plan:

- [CMS 1135 Waiver Approval Letter for COVID-19 Flexibilities](#) (received March 23, 2020)
- [CMS Medicaid Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment \(SPA\) Approval](#) (received April 1, 2020)
- [CMS 1115 Waiver Appendix K Approval Letter](#) (received April 6, 2020)
- [CMS 1115 Waiver Approved Appendix K Document](#) (received April 6, 2020)
- [CMS Medicaid Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment \(SPA\) Approval, #2](#) (received April 9, 2020)
- [CMS CHIP Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment \(SPA\) Approval](#) (received April 24, 2020)
- [CMS 1135 Waiver Approval Letter for COVID-19 Flexibilities](#) (received May 6, 2020)

The allowances from CMS grant broad authority to Arizona to tailor changes to best serve its citizens. AHCCCS will make decisions about how and when these changes will be implemented in the coming days. The agency awaits direction from CMS regarding additional requested flexibilities.

COVID-19 Timeline



Key Flexibilities Offered During the Public Health Emergency

- Streamline provider enrollment
- Amend prior and continued authorization processes
- Suspend PASRR assessments (pre-admission and annual resident review)
- Provide continuous eligibility
- Waive premiums and copays
- Coverage for COVID testing
- Expand respite limit
- Electronic method for services (telehealth and telephonic)

**For a complete list see the [table](#) on the AHCCCS website

AHCCCS Financial Relief

Payments made April 13, 2020

Offered \$5.3 million in additional payments to Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)

Advanced supplemental payments to three hard-hit NFs facilities by one month.

Payments made mid-to-late April 2020

Made \$6 million in additional supplemental payments to Nursing Facilities (NFs).

Payments to begin in May 2020

Initiated the provision of retention payments to ALTCS providers who serve individuals who are elderly or have physical disabilities and offer attendant care and/or personal care services. Process initiated in April 2020.

Payments made early-May 2020

Advanced over \$41M in scheduled payments to Targeted Investments Program providers, including hospitals, primary care, behavioral health outpatient and justice clinic providers.

Payments in mid-May 2020

Accelerated \$50 million in payments to hospitals which participated in the Graduate Medical Education program in 2019.

April 2020

May 2020

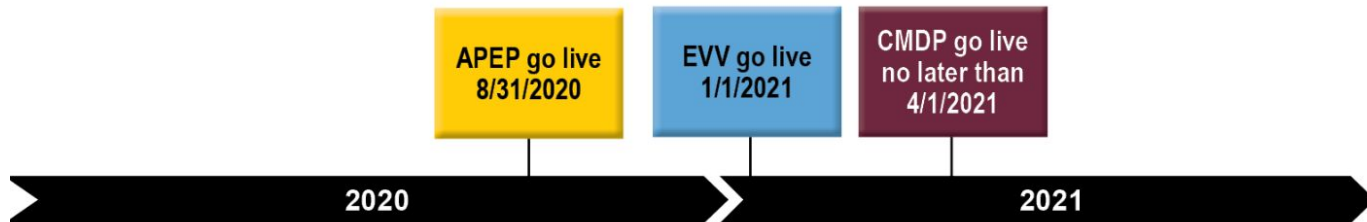
Arizona AHCCCS COVID-19 RESPONSE

Staying Connected with Stakeholders

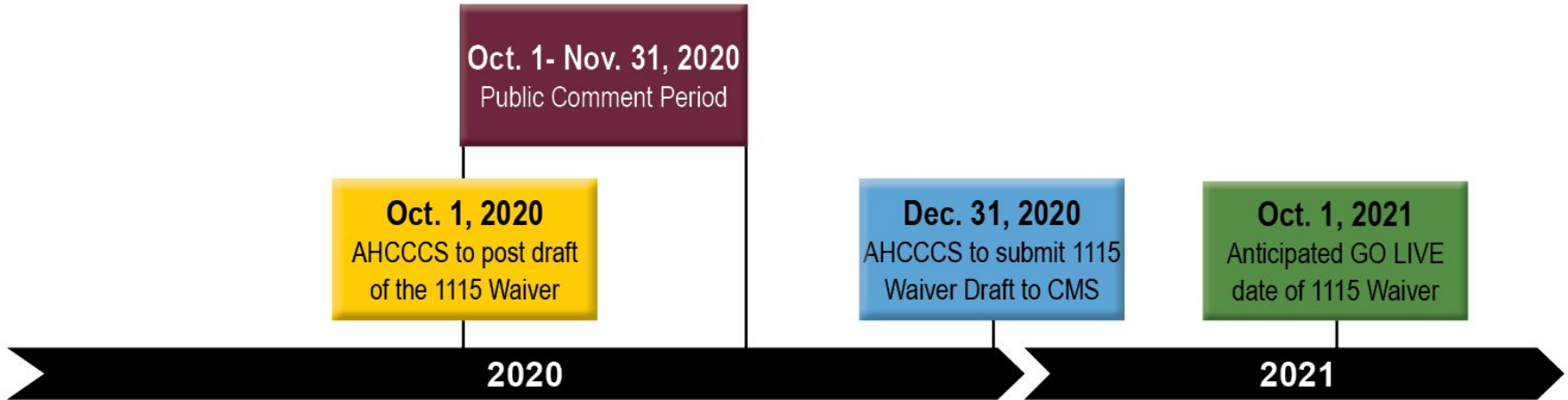
- Arizona Council of Human Service Providers - every two weeks
- Tribal Consultation - every two weeks
- MCO meeting - weekly
- Smaller MCO Provider Viability Meeting - weekly
- State Medicaid Advisory Committee - monthly
- OIFA Advisory Council - monthly
- Telehealth Webinars - as needed
- Behavioral Health Taskforce - weekly
- Homeless Strategies - weekly
- MCO CMOs - weekly
- ADHS - Modelling Workgroup - weekly

Next Steps

- Defining which flexibilities we want to maintain
 - Currently receiving recommendations specific to telehealth and telephonic services
- Ongoing conversation with CMS regarding retainer payments
- Ongoing conversation with CMS regarding AHCCCS' overarching 1115 waiver
- Continuing open dialogue with our stakeholders
- Assessing timelines moving forward

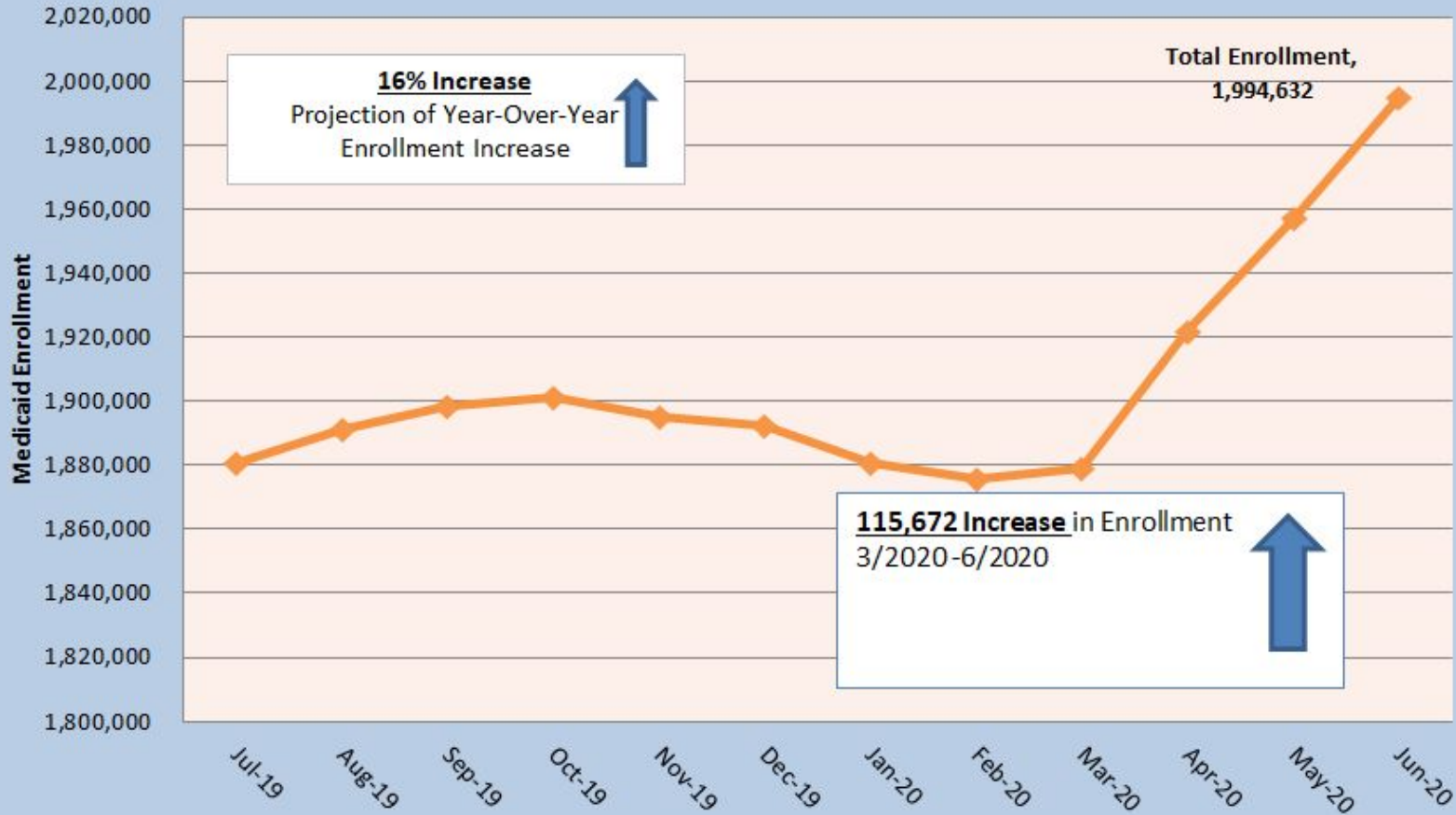


Arizona's 1115 Waiver Renewal

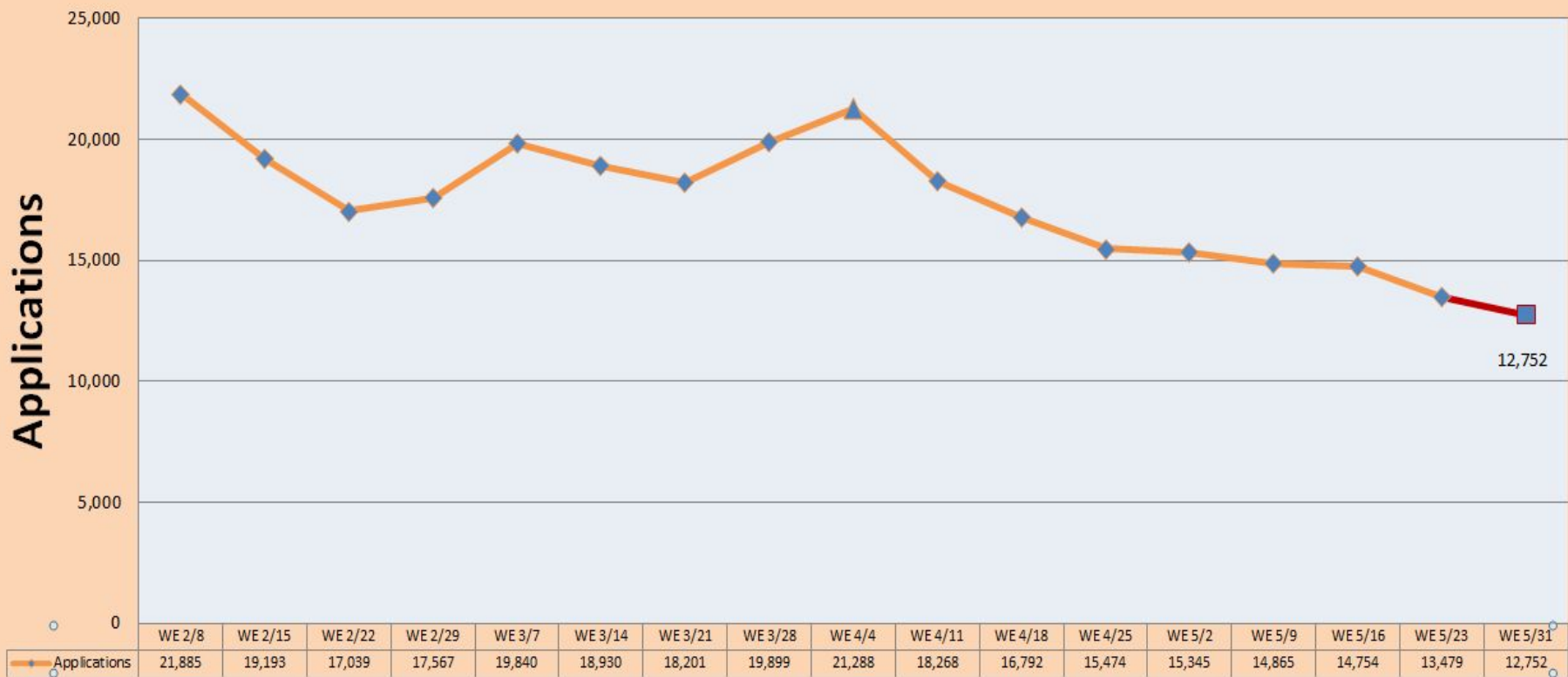


AHCCCS Enrollment and Application Trends

Enrollment Growth 07/2019 - 6/2020



Applications Submitted



Legislative Update

Session Summary

- Total Bills: 1607
- Bills Signed into Law: 58 (31 awaiting action as of 6/1)
- Adjourned Sine Die: 5/26/20
- General Effective Date: 8/25/20
- Biggest disparity in bills introduced to bills signed into law in state history
- Special Session likely to occur this summer

AHCCCS Related Bills

- HB 2244- Requires AHCCCS to request CMS approval for the provision of dental services beyond current service limitations when provided at IHS/638 facilities which are eligible for 100% FMAP
- HB 2668- Establishes a new hospital assessment which can be used to create a hospital directed payment program, increase practitioner and dental rates, and pay for administrative expenses
- SB 1523-The Mental Health Omnibus bill requires commercial insurers to report on mental health parity, establishes funding to pay for BH services in schools for uninsured/underinsured children, and creates the suicide mortality review team at ADHS

Budget

- AHCCCS was funded at the JLBC baseline (approx. \$14B TF)
- \$8 million was appropriated for BH in Schools funding for uninsured/underinsured children in the Mental Health Omnibus
- AHCCCS was provided flexibility to offer retainer payments to BH and DD providers from existing appropriation



Feedback Requested

State Plan Amendments and Whole Person Care Initiative

State Plan Amendments

Fourth COVID-19 Disaster Relief SPA

- AHCCCS will be submitting a SPA to remove the indication that the State covers the optional COVID testing group.
 - On April 1, 2020, CMS approved (SPA) 20-001 which included section A.1 to cover the new optional eligibility group for COVID-19 testing described at section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XXIII) of the Social Security Act.
 - The State made the decision not to implement the new eligibility group due to HRSA funding that was subsequently appropriated through federal legislation, which covers COVID testing and treatment for the uninsured at a higher reimbursement rate for healthcare providers.
 - With the decision not to implement, CMS has directed AHCCCS to remove this group from the SPA pages, but notes that the State may reinstitute the group if the HRSA funding runs out.

Tribal/638 Nursing Facility All-Inclusive Rate

- AHCCCS plans to submit a SPA to change the reimbursement for nursing facility services provided to American Indians by facilities owned or operated by the Indian Health or tribes under PL 93-638 to reflect the OMB outpatient all-inclusive rate.
 - AHCCCS continues to research the best path to accomplish the requested change in reimbursement structure for Tribal ALFs.

Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Process

- The Tribal Consultation/Public Comment portal can be found at: <https://comments.azahcccs.gov>.
- Public Comments can be submitted through email or mail at the address below:
 - Email: public input@azahcccs.gov; or
 - Mail: AHCCCS Attn: Office of Intergovernmental Relations 801 E. Jefferson St., MD 4200 Phoenix, AZ 85034

AHCCCS Whole Person Care Initiative

Tribal Feedback Needed

Response Deadline Extended

New Deadline: June 30, 2020

1. View video: <https://youtu.be/gcBkubUHUMM>
2. Reference Vitalyst Elements of a Health Community Wheel: <http://livewellaz.org/>
3. Survey Link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfoRu6dS4FQLkhfD7tDWKhC6Xi53UAtG0XV9y-3SgDzXD9Z7A/viewform>

WPCI Points of Contact

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Resources

AHCCCS COVID-19

- AHCCCS COVID-19 Information:
<https://azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/covid19.html>
- AHCCCS FAQs Regarding COVID-19:
<https://azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/covid19FAQ.html>
- AHCCCS Federal Authorities Request:
<https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Federal/PendingWaivers/1135.html>

Next Special Tribal Consultation:

June 18, 2020 at 2 pm (AZ time)

Please check [AHCCCS Tribal Consultation Webpage](#) for meeting information.

*Please send any agenda item recommendations to Amanda.Bahe@azahcccs.gov by June 11, 2020.



Please take the survey.

Surveys help us better
tailor meetings to
your needs.