



## Talking Points:

### SIGN ON FOR CMS ON TECHNOLOGY FUNDING

#### **What is the problem we are trying to address?**

With major direct support professional (DSP) workforce shortages, complying with the HCBS Settings rule requirements of more integrated services, limited resources, and other issues, it is very important that providers are able to use technology. This would allow providers to preserve resources, share staff, and make the most efficient use of our Medicaid funding to offer great services. This technology includes remote passive and interactive audio and video supports (staff sharing), sensor technology, and the use of in home communication devices.

#### **Why can't providers currently just use existing technology now?**

There are not clear standards from CMS that remote technology can be funded by the current Medicaid HCBS and ICF/IID funding streams. For instance, some standards require on-site supervision. Also, although a few states are making helpful use of this technology, many states do not believe this is permissible so they need the directive from CMS that it is permissible and in fact, encouraged where appropriate.

#### **What are some of the benefits of using remote technology?**

- More independence for the person receiving services (less physical presence of an individual, allows an individual to remain in their home or smaller home setting).
- Safe and better record of provision of services (creates an electronic health record of individual's services, produces a record of the fidelity and quality of services).
- Saves and utilizes resources more efficiently (instead of requiring a 1:1 staff/client ratio you can do 1:6, allows more individuals to be served under constraints of staffing deficit).

#### **How can my Congressional office help?**

By participating in a sign-on letter requesting that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services review and enhance its ability to permit providers of HCBS and ICF/IID programs to provide services using emerging technology and also communicate to states their ability to do so within their Medicaid partnerships with the federal government.

To learn more, please contact Ms. Esme Grant Grewal, Senior Director of Government Relations at ANCOR, the national trade association for IDD providers, at [egrant@ancor.org](mailto:egrant@ancor.org) or (202) 579 7789.