

HWB Program Questions from the Associations

Filing Date

30 days is unrealistically tight for a brand-new program and portal. We request that you consider a filing extension for Vesting Period 1

Outreach and Education

We request that DOH hold an informational webinar addressing both the policy aspects of the program as well as technical submission details.

Employee Eligibility

- Clarify which specific administrative staff who support the provision of health care services to patients at Licensed Home Care Services Agencies, Hospices, and Certified Home Health Agencies are eligible for bonuses. For example, would eligibility include the following commonly used titles: director of patient services, case managers, clerks, bookkeepers, home care coordinators, schedulers, hospice chaplains, volunteer coordinators, and so forth?
- Verify that eligibility is based on job title, not specific duties. Define “other” as a choice on the template that would include other commonly used titles, for example director of patient services, case managers, home care coordinators, schedulers, hospice chaplains, volunteer coordinators, etc.?
- Define “other clinical staff and assistants”.
- 39.2(i) lists: “, all other health care support workers,” – Define this term (include where this term is located).
- Verify that agencies that are strictly private pay are NOT eligible to claim bonuses for their workers.

Submissions

Explain specifically how employers who bill through programs such as the state Office for the Aging or local county offices for aging, or local department of social services, can claim bonuses for their employees. Do they contact the agency or log in with SFS? The program (website and statute) contains the following conflicting information.

- Can log in using SFS: The agencies with providers who may not be in NYS Medicaid (eMedNY) system may include: Office of Mental Health, Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, Office of Children and Family Services, Office of Addiction Services and Supports and the New York State Education Department.
- Must contact state agency: Employers who have staff eligible for bonuses, but ineligible for workforce bonuses under Medicaid should contact the appropriate state agency they

operate under for program details. The agencies with providers who do not have an active MMIS ID (Non-Medicaid) may include: Office of Mental Health, Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, Office of Children and Family Services, and the Office of Addiction Services and Supports

Worker related questions

- Employees must attest in under 30 days to ensure submission by the deadline – can employers collect these in an electronic format? By fax?
- What if employee doesn't give employer the signed attestation by the due date? How can this be documented?
- When will the employee attestation be made available in other languages?

Funds Distribution

- Funds are coming as a lump sum in Medicaid remittance. Will the state provide details with the funds- employee list and amounts – so employer can reconcile? If not, how will employer know if a worker is determined by the state to not be eligible? NOTE: FAQ says “there may be information about the payment on the HWB Program Portal.” Will employee specific details be included there?
- Employer is responsible for check processing costs. Will state reimburse for these costs?
- How will the employer be compensated for statutory fringe benefits on these bonuses, such as FICA, MTA, disability, workers' compensation expenses and unemployment insurance?
- Verify that the Employer isn't responsible for knowing what bonuses, if any, that the worker got from another job.
- How will the state let the employer know if the \$3000 limit is reached for an employee due to the employee receiving bonuses from prior employers?