



Dear Members,

We are pleased to share the good news of a temporary 10% rate increase for Group Adult Foster Care (GAFC) from 7/1/2021-12/31/2021. Mass-ALA has been advocating for GAFC rate increases for many years. Our most recent advocacy on behalf of assisted living providers included a letter to the state requesting that a portion of the state's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds be spent on a GAFC funding increase, a letter requesting a GAFC funding increase in response to the state's Request for Information regarding enhanced HCBS (Home and community-based services) funding from ARPA, and continuous engagement with state policy makers together with Mass-ALA GAFC provider members.

The daily GAFC reimbursement rate of \$40.33 will be increased to \$44.36 per day from July 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. Providers may immediately begin billing at the new rate. A letter from the state will be forthcoming, likely next week, with additional details. The letter will include information that 90 percent of provider spending of this funding increase will need to go to direct care workforce spending, including recruiting, building, and retaining the direct care workforce. A description of the required provider attestation spending report and details on the scope of those rules will be provided in the forthcoming letter. Reimbursement increases for previously billed rates will be completed by the state, so providers should not take steps to reprocess any reimbursements already paid since July 1. We will share the letter when it is published.

In related news, there will be a Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) GAFC cost report webinar on Tuesday, August 24 at 1PM. The state will send details and a link to GAFC providers.

We will continue to advocate for more of the enhanced HCBS funding from ARPA to be invested in GAFC and for a permanent increase in the GAFC reimbursement rate.

Best Regards,

Brian Doherty
President and CEO
Mass-ALA