



**MALA** Michigan Assisted Living Association

The Honorable Thomas Albert, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

December 1, 2021

Re: American Rescue Plan Act

Michigan Assisted Living Association (MALA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on the devastating impact of COVID upon residential settings supporting older adults and individuals with disabilities. Unfortunately, the latest surge in the pandemic has intensified the challenges for these vulnerable adults as well as providers and staff.

MALA represents the following types of residential settings for which our organization is requesting an allocation of \$100 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to maintain stability in these settings:

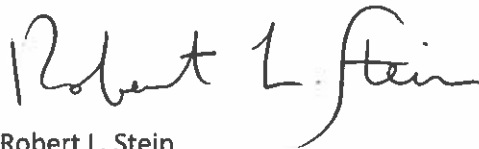
- Adult foster care facilities licensed through the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)
- Homes for the aged licensed through LARA
- Facilities with approved status from LARA for exemption from home for the aged licensure
- Self-directed and other non-licensed residential settings for older adults and individuals with disabilities which are not subject to licensure through LARA
  
- Estimated Number of Eligible Facilities – The estimated aggregate number for the above categories of facilities is 6,000 with an approximate total resident capacity of 100,000.
  
- Each facility may apply for funding of up to \$1,000 per resident served for the following categories of COVID related expenses sustained in 2021:
  1. Expenses related to compliance with OSHA’s Healthcare Emergency Temporary Standard including but not limited to the following costs:
    - A. OSHA required respirator program
    - B. N95 Fit Testing kits
    - C. Respirator program required health evaluations
    - D. Development and implementation of COVID-19 Plan
    - E. Development and implementation of Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions in accordance with CDC guidelines
    - F. Compliance with training requirements
  2. COVID related cleaning equipment, products, supplies and services for health and safety measures including infection control



***The Leader in Advocacy, Education and Resources for Providers***  
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3. Modifications to physical plant characteristics installed to enhance the ability to facilitate visitation, isolation, quarantine and other similar safety measures
  4. COVID screening equipment such as thermometers
  5. Technological devices used to facilitate visits and other communication with families, health care providers, public health officials, regulatory and contract agencies as well as others in need of communication with facility staff and residents – this category of expenses includes initiatives to keep families together as well as reduce social isolation and anxiety.
  6. Financial resources to enhance the facility's environmental safety through technological investments such as air quality systems
- Eligibility for ARPA Funding – A facility shall be eligible for the ARPA funding regardless of its sources of income. The ARPA funding provided to facilities shall be deemed as not reimbursing Medicaid funded services, as may be applicable.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of MALA's funding request. We are available at any time to answer questions or provide additional information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Stein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "S".

Robert L. Stein  
General Counsel

CC: House Appropriations Committee Members