

Premium Pay for Workforce Recruitment and Retention

Presentation to Joint Fiscal Committee

November 9, 2022

Program Overview and Status

- Act 83 of 2022 allocated \$60M
 - \$55M of which are COVID-19 SFR funds and HCBS FMAP funds (ARPA Sec. 9817)
 - Included \$45M for a first round focused on specified provider types
- 140 first round applicants qualified and were awarded \$33.1M
 - Nearly half of all awards were taken under a quarterly disbursement option that allows grantees to issue premium pay through June 2023
- Over \$26M currently available, including \$20M in SFR funds
 - SFR funds are restrictive due to requirement to fund work performed during the PHE* and maximum allowable premium pay of \$13/hour

*Based on presidential proclamation

Proposal - Expand Eligible Provider Types

- Second round of Premium Pay funding using the program requirements (\$2k/FTE, demonstrated need for funding) stipulated in Act 83
- AHS recommends expanding the list of eligible providers to include:
 - Primary care practices,
 - Dentist offices or facilities,
 - High-Tech Independent Home Nursing Providers, and
 - Therapeutic Community Residences as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 7102 that did not receive funding in the first round