

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Department of Health Care Finance**



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

**Transmittal # 20-18**

TO: All Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFIID) Receiving Medicaid Reimbursements

FROM: Melisa Byrd  
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: April 22, 2020

SUBJECT: **Temporary Enhanced Reimbursement Rates for District ICFIID Due to COVID-19**

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this transmittal is to notify ICFIID providers participating in the District's Medicaid program of the temporary enhanced reimbursement rates during the pendency of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) period<sup>1</sup>. DHCF is requesting a Medicaid Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). State Medicaid agencies may seek to implement the policies and procedures which are different than the policies and procedures otherwise applied under the Medicaid state plan during the period of the Presidential and Secretarial emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 outbreak (or any renewals thereof), or for any shorter period<sup>2</sup>. The enhanced reimbursement rates are fifteen percent (15%) increases to the Direct Service cost component and other specified components of the rate methodology. These enhanced reimbursement rates are temporary and effective for services provided and claims submitted beginning March 11, 2020, and sunseting at the end of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE).

**Background**

Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) is implementing an enhanced reimbursement rate to enable providers to address worker shortages, provision of wage incentives, overtime pay, and increased expenses for screening, personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies and other costs incurred during this period.

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<sup>1</sup> The Public Health Emergency period, for purposes of the information contained in this Transmittal, is from March 1, 2020, through the termination of the PHE, as determined by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including any extensions.

<sup>2</sup> On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a proclamation that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency by the authorities vested in him by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and consistent with section 1135 of the Social Security Act (Act). On March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 1135(b) of the Act, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services invoked his authority to waive or modify certain requirements of titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Act as a result of the consequences COVID-19 pandemic, to the extent necessary, as determined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

**Enhanced Reimbursement Rates**

Specifically, DHCF is providing temporary enhanced reimbursement rates which inflate the current FY ICFIID direct service personnel and active treatment component costs by 15% and provide a proportionate increase, per the rate methodology, to all other healthcare services, administration and Stevie Sellows cost components. The direct service cost component is comprised of the direct support professional (DSP), certified nursing assistant (CNA), licensed professional nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN), qualified intellectual disabilities professional (QIDP), and the house managers costs. The 15% increase shall ***not*** apply to the other personnel cost, transportation, and capital cost components.

Overall, there will be no changes to the billing process or documentation required. All other reimbursement policies will remain in effect, including those related to unallowable. The enhanced reimbursement rates are applicable for all acuity levels and updated in the Medicaid Fee Schedule located on the DHCF website at

<https://www.dc-medicaid.com/dcwebportal/nonsecure/feeScheduleDownload>.

**Effective Period of the Enhanced Rates**

The enhanced rates will be effective for services rendered from March 11, 2020, through the end of the federal PHE.

**Claims Processing/Recycling**

DHCF will recycle all ICFIID claims no later than May 2020. The retroactive recycling of claims will be applied to all claims with a first date of service within the enhanced rate effective period.

**Contact**

If you have any questions, please contact Samuel Woldeghiorgis, Reimbursement Analyst, Office of Rates Reimbursement and Financial Analysis, Department of Health Care Finance, at 441 4th Street, Suite 900S, Washington, DC 20001, or email at [samuel.woldeghiorgis@dc.gov](mailto:samuel.woldeghiorgis@dc.gov) or via telephone at (202) 442-9240.

Attachement: ICFIID FY 2020 Enhanced Reimbursement Rates

**Cc:** DC Hospital Association  
DC Primary Care Association  
DC Health Care Association  
DC Home Health Association  
DC Behavioral Health Association  
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers