

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

Transmittal # 21-35

TO: HCBS IDD Waiver Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: September 08, 2021

SUBJECT: **Implementation of the IDD Waiver DSP Supplemental Payment Program**

Purpose

This transmittal provides notice and payment guidance to HCBS IDD Waiver Providers on the implementation of the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Supplemental Payment program. Effective August 18, 2021 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the District of Columbia's request to amend the following 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers with the Emergency Preparedness and Response Appendix K. Authorization of the DSP Supplemental Payment program was included in the August 18, 2021 Appendix K approval. The DSP Supplemental Payment program is intended to reduce DSP staff turnover, ensure providers can appropriately staff programs, and maintain quality of services provided during the public health emergency. Eligible providers will receive a supplemental payment to support DSP wages, salary and fringe benefits or a DSP bonus payment.

The supplemental payment is available to eligible providers of the following waiver services:

- Residential Habilitation (*IDD waiver only*)
- Supported Living Daily with or without Transportation (*IDD waiver only*)
- Companion Services

The current supplemental payment will be paid out in a one-time lump sum payment in fiscal year 2021.

Notice

The DSP Supplemental Payment does not alter the current IDD Waiver reimbursement methodology; instead it provides for additional funding to the IDD Waiver DSP wages, salary and fringe benefits, or a bonus payment to support worker retention.

Eligibility for the Supplemental Payment

To be eligible for the program, an IDD Waiver service provider must satisfy the following criteria:

1. The DSP Supplemental Payment must be paid as a onetime bonus payment to DSPs. A DSP employee is defined as follows:
 - a. Direct support professional must be an employee of an IDD Waiver provider who provides direct services to individuals with developmental disabilities for at least 50% of the employee's work hours.
 - b. Direct services for which the individual is eligible to be paid must include working with an individual providing support with self-care activities, behavior management, and community integration pursuant to an Individual Service Plan (ISP); and
 - c. An employee as used in this section excludes managers, administrators, and contract employees
2. Currently in Operation.
3. Complies with the Clean Hands certificate requirements of the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue and is otherwise in good standing with DHCF; and
4. Submits proof of a written commitment to use supplemental payments to pay DSPs in a form of a one-time bonus payment or as an increase to the salaries, wages and fringe benefits of the DSPs

Eligible DSP Supplemental Payment Amount

Each IDD Waiver provider who renders the above listed services will be eligible to receive a DSP Supplemental Payment. The total disbursement amount will be calculated based on the actual services rendered during the one year after the start of the Public Health Emergency. The disbursement amount shall be computed based on the number & acuity level of beneficiaries supported and the DSP staffing pattern required in the rate methodology.

Payment, Disbursement Procedures & Reporting Requirement

To receive payments, DHCF requires that IDD Waiver providers who qualify for the Supplemental Payment to submit the documents listed below to samuel.woldeghiorgis@dc.gov within two weeks of the publication date of this transmittal. DHCF shall subsequently ensure disbursements of the payment.

1. The attached signed attestation and written commitment to use Supplemental Payments to pay DSPs in a form of a bonus payment.
2. Provide a recent copy the Clean Hands certificate issued by the Office of Tax and Revenue.
3. Providers shall submit a report to DHCF on the distribution of the funds to their DSPs within ninety (90) days of receiving the funds.

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 samuel.woldeghiorgis@dc.gov. or via telephone at (202) 442- 9240

cc: Department of Disability Services
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers