



# ODP Announcement

## Requesting an Enhanced Communication Rate for Services for Individuals Who Use Sign Language

### ODP Communication Number 099-18

*The mission of the Office of Developmental Programs is to support Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence, choice and opportunity in their lives.*

**AUDIENCE:** Individuals and Families, Providers, Administrative Entity (AE) Administrators or Directors, County Administrators, Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO) and Other Interested Parties

**PURPOSE:** This communication provides a process for providers to request an enhanced communication rate for Consolidated, Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS), and Community Living Waiver services for individuals who use Sign Language to communicate.

**DISCUSSION:** The Harry M. settlement agreement was approved by a federal court judge on August 20, 2013. This settlement agreement was created in order to ensure Pennsylvanians are provided with necessary communication assistance services based on their assessed needs.

The enhanced communication rate is available for services for individuals who are enrolled in the Consolidated, P/FDS, and Community Living waiver from providers who have signing staff to serve individuals who use Sign Language to communicate. An enhanced communication rate is available for the following services:

- Companion Services
- In-Home and Community Supports
- Older Adult Daily Living Centers
- Community Participant Support (CPS)
- Small Group Employment
- Benefits Counseling
- Supported Employment
  - Career Assessment
  - Job Finding and Development
  - Job Coaching and Support
- Advanced Supported Employment
  - Discovery Profile Outcome
  - Job Acquisition Outcome
  - Job Retention Outcome
- Respite
- Supports Broker Services
- Housing Transition and Tenancy Sustaining
- Residential Habilitation
- Shift Nursing RN

- Shift Nursing LPN
- Therapies
  - Physical
  - Occupational
  - Speech/Language
  - Orientation, Mobility, and Vision
- Music Therapy
- Art Therapy
- Equine Assisted Therapy
- Behavioral Supports
- Communication Specialist
- Consultative Nutritional Services
- Family Caregiver Support Counseling (with participant present)
- Supplemental Habilitation
- Supported Living
- Life Sharing

**REQUESTING THE ENHANCED COMMUNICATION RATE:** Providers who wish to request an enhanced communication rate must complete the Enhanced Communication Rate Request Form and submit the completed form to:  
ODP’s Deaf Services Mailbox at [RA-odpdeafservices@pa.gov](mailto:RA-odpdeafservices@pa.gov).

The Enhanced Communication Rate Request Form can be accessed at MyODP.

The following documentation must be provided in addition to the form:

- Certificates of completion for the Harry M web-based training
- Quiz on Harry M training (sent to the provider once the request for the enhanced rate is made)
- Video of signing skills (sent to the provider once the request for the enhanced rate is made)

Following receipt of a provider’s request, ODP will review the information submitted and determine whether the provider is eligible for the enhanced communication rate. The provider will be notified of ODP’s decision following the review. If additional information or discussion concerning the request is required, ODP will reach out to the contact persons identified on the Enhanced Communication Rate Request Form.

**CONTACT:** Questions about the contents of this memorandum may be directed to the ODP Deaf Services Mailbox at [RA-odpdeafservices@pa.gov](mailto:RA-odpdeafservices@pa.gov).

This communication obsoletes ODP Announcement 002-17, *Requesting Enhanced Communication Residential Habilitation Rates for Harry M Class Members*.