

Revision to the Enhanced Communication Rate for Services **ODP Announcement 22-099**

AUDIENCE:

Individuals and families, Supports Coordinators (SC), Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs) for the Consolidated, Community Living, and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) waivers, Administrative Entities (AEs), Providers, and all interested parties

PURPOSE:

This communication provides a revision to the enhanced communication rate.

DISCUSSION:

The enhanced communication rate is available for services from providers who have proficient signing staff to serve signing d/Deaf individuals or utilize PA registered, certified Sign Language Interpreters during service provision.

Attachment A is available to explain the differences between having staff who are fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) versus using an ASL Interpreter.

In the Consolidated, P/FDS, and Community Living waivers, this rate is available for the following services:

- Advanced Supported Employment
 - Discovery Profile Outcome
 - Job Acquisition Outcome
 - Job Retention Outcome
- Art Therapy
- Behavioral Supports
- Benefits Counseling
- Communication Specialist
- Community Participation Supports
- Companion Services
- Consultative Nutritional Services
- Equine Assisted Therapy
- Family/Caregiver Training and Support (with participant present)
- Family Medical Support Assistance
- Housing Transition and Tenancy Sustaining
- In-Home and Community Supports
- Life Sharing
- Music Therapy
- Residential Habilitation
- Respite
- Shift Nursing LPN
- Shift Nursing RN
- Small Group Employment
- Supplemental Habilitation
- Supported Employment
 - Career Assessment
 - Job Finding and Development
 - Job Coaching and Support
- Supported Living
- Supports Broker
- Therapies
 - Physical
 - Occupational
 - Speech/Language
 - Orientation, Mobility, and Vision

Request Process:

Please note there are no exceptions to this process. All providers are required to follow the policy as written for each participant.

1. Providers who wish to request an enhanced communication rate must complete either the:

<p>Enhanced Communication Rate Request Form (Signing Staff) <i>Attachment B</i></p>	<p>Enhanced Communication Rate Request Form (Sign Language Interpreting Services) <i>Attachment C</i></p>
<p>For providers who have signing staff to serve d/Deaf individuals.</p>	<p>For providers who utilize PA registered, certified Sign Language Interpreters to serve d/Deaf individuals during service provision.</p>

2. Submit the completed form and attachments to ODP’s Deaf Services Mailbox at RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov.
3. Following receipt of the requested documentation, ODP will review the information submitted and determine whether the provider is eligible for the enhanced communication rate. If additional information or discussion concerning the request is required, ODP will contact the agency’s contact person identified on the form.
4. ODP will notify the provider, AE, assigned Supports Coordinator (SC), and ODP regional lead of the decision to approve or deny the rate. If approved, a formal notice of approval that should be maintained in the individual’s file by the SC and provider will be attached to the notification.
5. The SC should document approval in a service note and create a critical revision to the Individual Service Plan (ISP) to add the U1 modifier to the approved service. The SC should also ensure that:
 - a. the “Harry M Indicator” in HCSIS is checked (even if the individual is not a class member)
 - b. the “Primary Language” under Demographics in HCSIS is listed as “Sign”

- c. the individual has an “Additional Diagnosis” category of “Sensory” listed as either “Deaf (ODP), “Hard of Hearing (ODP)”, or “Deaf unable to understand or communicate verbal expressions (ODP)”
- d. the individual has one of the following “Primary Modes of Communication” - American Sign Language (ASL), Mixture ASL & Signed English, Sign Exact English, Sign Language from Other Countries, Tactile Sign, or Visual-Gestural Communication

Questions about the contents of this announcement may be directed to the ODP Deaf Services Mailbox at RA-ODPDeafservices@pa.gov.

This communication obsoletes ODP Announcement 20-011, Revision to the Enhanced Communication Rate for Services.

Attachments:

- A. Differences between having a Direct Service Professional who is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) versus using an ASL Interpreter
- B. Enhanced Communication Rate Request Form (Signing Staff)
- C. Enhanced Communication Rate Request Form (Sign Language Interpreting Services)