

Now Available: Waiver Amendments for One-time Workforce Recovery Supplemental Payments Approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

ODP Announcement 24-041

AUDIENCE:

All Stakeholders

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to announce that amendments to the Consolidated, Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS), Community Living, and Adult Autism Waivers were approved by CMS. The approved waivers are effective May 1, 2024, and are available on the Department of Human Services' (DHS) website.

DISCUSSION:

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce that the amendments to the Consolidated, P/FDS, Community Living, and the Adult Autism Waivers were approved by CMS on April 29, 2024. The amendments are effective May 1, 2024. As communicated in ODP announcement 24-031, the waiver amendments were submitted to CMS on March 14, 2024, for review and approval.

The Department amended the Consolidated, P/FDS, Community Living, and Adult Autism Waivers to allow providers to request a one-time supplemental payment to cover recruitment, retention, and any unusual staffing expenses resulting from the COVID-19

pandemic for direct support professionals, frontline supervisors, program specialists or Supports Coordinators. The one-time supplemental payments can be used to fund excessive overtime, shift differential incentives, costs of recruitment efforts, sign-on bonuses, retention bonuses, wage increases for Supports Coordinators, supports coordinator supervisors, direct support professionals, program specialists, and frontline supervisors, and other incentive payments. The funding is intended to allow providers to accept new participants into service. Payments may not be used to increase or supplement compensation for agency executive staff.

Providers must request the one-time supplemental payments. Payments will be calculated at 6% of fee schedule revenue received for services rendered between July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023 for the below listed services.

Services in the Consolidated, Community Living, and P/FDS Waivers:

- Advanced Supported Employment
- Behavioral Support
- Benefits Counseling
- Communication Specialist
- Community Participation Support
- Companion
- Consultative Nutritional Services
- Family/Caregiver Training and Support
- Homemaker/Chore

- Housing Transition and Tenancy Sustaining Services
- In-Home and Community Support
- Licensed and Unlicensed Life Sharing
- Music, Art and Equine Assisted Therapy
- Licensed and Unlicensed Residential Habilitation
- Respite
- Shift Nursing
- Small Group Employment
- Supplemental Habilitation
- Supported Employment
- Supported Living
- Supports Broker
- Supports Coordination
- Therapy (Physical, Speech/Language, Occupational, Orientation, Mobility and Vision)
- Transportation Trip

Payments will be calculated at 3% of revenue received for Residential Habilitation Needs Exception rates for providers that render Residential Habilitation to more than one person between July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

Services in the Adult Autism Waiver:

- Career Planning
- Day Habilitation
- Family Support
- Nutritional Consultation
- Residential Habilitation (Community Homes and Life Sharing)
- Respite
- Small Group Employment
- Specialized Skill Development (Behavioral Specialist Services, Systematic Skill Building, and Community Support)
- Supported Employment
- Supports Coordination
- Temporary Supplemental Services
- Therapies (Speech/Language and Counseling)
- Transportation Trip

REMINDER: Providers must request a Workforce Recovery Supplemental Payment by completing the survey at the following link: [Workforce Recovery Supplemental Payments Survey](#). This survey must be completed and submitted no later than May 15, 2024. A copy of the survey is attached to this announcement.

ODP anticipates releasing Workforce Recovery Supplemental Payments in June 2024 to providers that complete the survey by May 15th. The payments will be processed in the order received. ODP will not process payments for providers that submit completed surveys after May 15, 2024.

In addition to the Workforce Recovery Supplemental Payments, ODP has also increased the number of unduplicated individuals who can be enrolled and receive services in the Consolidated Waiver by 400 individuals and the Community Living Waiver by 1,250 individuals. This increase is effective for fiscal year 2023-2024 (waiver year 2) with maintenance of the increase reflected in subsequent years.

Each full waiver application is available online at:

[Consolidated Waiver](#)

[Community Living Waiver](#)

[P/FDS Waiver](#)

[Adult Autism Waiver](#)

CONTACT:

Questions about the Workforce Recovery Supplemental Payments should be directed to ra-ratesetting@pa.gov.

ATTACHMENT:

Workforce Recovery Supplemental Payment Survey