

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. §447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Rate Increase

Effective with an approved amendment by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the Independent Care Waiver Program and subject to payment at fee-for-service rates, the Department, in response to a joint federal and state initiative to increase access to care, is proposing an increase in rates of 6.67% to Personal Support Services. The rate increase is funded through the third quarter of SFY 2016 via the Balancing Incentives Payment Program in which Georgia receives an enhanced match to augment home- and community-based services. There is no state impact until fourth quarter SFY 2016.

The following rates are proposed to change:

Service	Rate Prior to CMS Approval	Rate Post CMS Approval	Per 15 Minute Unit
Personal Support Service Level 1	\$10.32 per hour unit	\$11.01 per hour unit	\$2.75
Personal Support Service Level 2	\$12.20 per hour unit	\$13.01 per hour unit	\$3.25
Personal Support Service Level 3	\$14.07 per hour unit	\$15.01 per hour unit	\$3.75

This change is estimated to increase expenditures as follows:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>State Funds</u>
Aged, Blind, and Disabled, SFY 2015	\$0	\$0
Aged, Blind, and Disabled, SFY 2016	\$1,055,718	\$359,683
Aged, Blind, and Disabled, SFY 2017	\$4,222,873	\$1,438,732

This notice is made separately and independently from other concurrent notices related to required Transition Planning for state compliance with new CMS-issued regulations for waiver services provided in Home and Community-Based Settings.

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **August 21, 2014**, at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room. Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479. Citizens wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **September 2, 2014**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301.

Comments submitted will be available for review by the public at the Department of Community Health, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Room 4074, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **September 11, 2014**, Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 14th DAY OF AUGUST, 2014

Clyde L. Reese III Esq., Commissioner