

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.

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORTS WAIVER PROGRAM (COMP) AND NEW OPTIONS WAIVER (NOW) PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Pending Department of Community Health (DCH) Board and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, DCH proposes to amend the NOW and COMP waivers effective November 10, 2023.

DCH proposes to sustain targeted rates within the waivers determined previously through the Appendix K which ends November 11, 2023. Proposed rate increases will be initially funded through American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA). Following exhaustion of ARPA funding the state match for rate increases will be financed through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

Proposed rate increases are as follows:

Code Description	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Service Frequency	Maximum Annual Limit
Support Coordination	\$163.73	\$187.43	Monthly	\$2,249.16
Community Living Support Services – Basic	\$6.80	\$7.49	15 Minutes	\$60,436.53/COMP \$47,122.83/NOW
Community Living Support Services, 2 Members – Basic	\$3.73	\$4.11	15 Minutes	\$60,436.53/COMP \$47,122.83/NOW
Community Living Support Services, 3 Members – Basic	\$2.72	\$2.99	15 Minutes	\$60,436.53/COMP \$47,122.83/NOW
Community Living Support Services – Extended	\$6.15	\$6.76	15 Minutes	\$60,436.53/COMP \$47,122.83/NOW
Community Living Support Services, 2 Members – Extended	\$3.39	\$3.72	15 Minutes	\$60,436.53/COMP \$47,122.83/NOW
Community Living Support Services, 3 Members – Extended	\$2.47	\$2.71	15 Minutes	\$60,436.53/COMP \$47,122.83/NOW
Community Residential Alternative - Category 1 - 3 Person*	\$191.21	\$210.32	Daily	\$72,350.08
Community Residential Alternative - Category 2 - 3 Person*	\$251.74	\$276.92	Daily	\$95,260.48
Community Residential Alternative - Category 3 - 3 Person*	\$280.04	\$308.05	Daily	\$105,969.20
Community Residential Alternative - Category 4 - 3 Person*	\$297.14	\$326.85	Daily	\$112,436.40
Community Residential Alternative - Category 1 - 4 Person*	\$165.73	\$182.29	Daily	\$62,707.76
Community Residential Alternative - Category 2 - 4 Person*	\$230.05	\$253.05	Daily	\$87,049.20
Community Residential Alternative - Category 3 - 4 Person*	\$256.75	\$282.43	Daily	\$97,155.92

Code Description	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Service Frequency	Maximum Annual Limit
Community Residential Alternative -Category 4 – 4 Person*	\$272.42	\$299.67	Daily	\$103,086.48
Community Residential Alternative -Group Home – 5 Person*	\$186.94	\$186.94	Daily	\$64,307.36
Community Access-Group	\$3.33	\$3.65	15 Minutes	\$21,024.00
Community Access-Individual	\$7.94	\$8.73	15 Minutes	\$12,571.20
Nursing Services-LPN	\$10.71	\$10.71	15 Minutes	N/A
Financial Support Services-Self-Directed	\$80.33	\$101.75	Monthly	\$1,221.00

Services indicated by an asterisk () are provided in the COMP waiver only.

The NOW Individual Cost Limit will increase to \$47,124.00.

Total fiscal impact of change in rates is as follows:

	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
SFY 2024	\$18,210,759	\$35,177,569	\$53,388,328

Additional Modifications

DCH proposes to modify the waivers to allow for the Appendix K provision continuing family caregiver hire for legally responsible person, relative and legal guardian for Community Access, Community Living Support Services, Supported Employment Services and Transportation Services. Public guardians cannot serve as family caregiver hires. Legally responsible persons can only provide these services when they constitute care over and above that which a legally responsible person would ordinarily provide.

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 **September 21, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83710716449?pwd=SXl0UFBwVjE1bU54UIRUWWx1dzhUUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 1071 6449

Passcode: 872381

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,83710716449#,,,872381# US

+13092053325,,83710716449#,,,872381# US

Dial by your location

- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 837 1071 6449

Passcode: 872381

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **October 16, 2023**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov.

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **November 9, 2023** at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 14th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023

Russel Carlson, Commissioner