

# APPENDIX K: Emergency Preparedness and Response and COVID-19 Addendum

**Background:**

This standalone appendix may be utilized by the state during emergency situations to request amendments to its approved waiver, to multiple approved waivers in the state, and/or to all approved waivers in the state. It includes actions that states can take under the existing Section 1915(c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency. Other activities may require the use of various other authorities such as the Section 1115 demonstrations or the Section 1135 authorities.<sup>1</sup> This appendix may be applied retroactively as needed by the state. Public notice requirements normally applicable under 1915(c) do not apply to information contained in this Appendix.

## Appendix K-1: General Information

**General Information:**

A. State: Georgia

B. Waiver Title(s): Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP)  
New Options Waiver Program (NOW)

C. Control Number(s): GA.0323.R04.10  
GA.0175.R06.09

D. Type of Emergency (The state may check more than one box):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pandemic or Epidemic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural Disaster
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Security Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

E. **Brief Description of Emergency.** *In no more than one paragraph each*, briefly describe the: 1) nature of emergency; 2) number of individuals affected and the state’s mechanism to identify individuals at risk; 3) roles of state, local and other entities involved in approved waiver operations; and 4) expected changes needed to service delivery methods, if applicable. The state should provide this information for each emergency checked if those emergencies affect different geographic areas and require different changes to the waiver.

COVID-19 pandemic. This amendment will apply waiver-wide for each waiver included in this Appendix, to all individuals impacted by the virus or the response to the virus (e.g. closure of day programs, etc.) The Appendix K increases the reimbursement rates of all waiver services by a standard two (2) percent and provides temporary increases in service maximum annual allowance by 2 percent to align with the 2 percent rate increases. The changes will reflect a start date of 7/1/2022 and are set to end six months after the end of the public health emergency or upon approval of the NOW program renewal application and COMP program waiver amendment, which seek to permanently reset waiver rates with a total seven (7) percent across the board rate increase. The Appendix K is in response to a continuing public health emergency resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Approximately 8,800 members receiving COMP waiver services are impacted and 4,800 members receiving NOW waiver services. Georgia is requesting statewide modification through this Appendix K submission.

**F. Proposed Effective Date:** Start Date: March 1, 2020  
**Anticipated End Date:** Six months after the end of the public health emergency

**G. Description of Transition Plan.**  
[Redacted]

**H. Geographic Areas Affected:**  
Statewide

**I. Description of State Disaster Plan (if available) *Reference to external documents is acceptable:***  
<https://gema.georgia.gov/>

**Appendix K-2: Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver**

**Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver:**  
*These are changes that, while directly related to the state’s response to an emergency situation, require amendment to the approved waiver document. These changes are time limited and tied specifically to individuals impacted by the emergency. Permanent or long-ranging changes will need to be incorporated into the main appendices of the waiver, via an amendment request in the waiver management system (WMS) upon advice from CMS.*

a. \_\_\_ **Access and Eligibility:**

i. \_\_\_ **Temporarily increase the cost limits for entry into the waiver.**

[Provide explanation of changes and specify the temporary cost limit.]

ii. \_\_\_ **Temporarily modify additional targeting criteria.**

[Explanation of changes]

b. \_\_\_ **Services**

i. \_\_\_ **Temporarily modify service scope or coverage.**

[Complete Section A- Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency.]

ii. \_\_\_ **Temporarily exceed service limitations (including limits on sets of services as described in Appendix C-4) or requirements for amount, duration, and prior authorization to address health and welfare issues presented by the emergency.**

[Explanation of changes]

iii. \_\_\_ **Temporarily add services to the waiver to address the emergency situation (for example, emergency counseling; heightened case management to address emergency needs; emergency medical supplies and equipment; individually directed goods and services; ancillary services to establish temporary residences for dislocated waiver enrollees; necessary technology; emergency evacuation transportation outside of the scope of non-emergency transportation or transportation already provided through the waiver).**

[Complete Section A-Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency]

iv. \_\_\_ **Temporarily expand setting(s) where services may be provided (e.g. hotels, shelters, schools, churches). Note for respite services only, the state should indicate any facility-based settings and indicate whether room and board is included:**

[Explanation of modification, and advisement if room and board is included in the respite rate]:

v. \_\_\_ **Temporarily provide services in out of state settings (if not already permitted in the state's approved waiver). [Explanation of changes]**

c.      **Temporarily permit payment for services rendered by family caregivers or legally responsible individuals if not already permitted under the waiver.** Indicate the services to which this will apply and the safeguards to ensure that individuals receive necessary services as authorized in the plan of care, and the procedures that are used to ensure that payments are made for services rendered.

d.      **Temporarily modify provider qualifications (for example, expand provider pool, temporarily modify or suspend licensure and certification requirements).**

i.      **Temporarily modify provider qualifications.**

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, list the provider type, and the changes in provider qualifications.]

ii.     **Temporarily modify provider types.**

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, and the changes in the .provider type for each service].

iii.     **Temporarily modify licensure or other requirements for settings where waiver services are furnished.**

[Provide explanation of changes, description of facilities to be utilized and list each service provided in each facility utilized.]

e.      **Temporarily modify processes for level of care evaluations or re-evaluations (within regulatory requirements).** [Describe]

f.   X   **Temporarily increase payment rates.**

[Provide an explanation for the increase. List the provider types, rates by service, and specify whether this change is based on a rate development method that is different from the current

approved waiver (and if different, specify and explain the rate development method). If the rate varies by provider, list the rate by service and by provider.]

Beginning July 1, 2022: Temporary increase service rates by 2%. The rate increase supports providers through the ongoing challenge to service delivery during the Public Health Emergency. The continued risk to the vulnerable population along with the continued need for support staff to support this population requires additional financial assistance to maximize provider capacity to maintain health and safety measures. The rate increase will be directed toward enhanced staff compensation. The increase addresses the current significant workforce shortage in Georgia.									
Rates as of 7/1/2022:									
<b>Service Name</b>	<b>Unit of Measure</b>	<b>Approved annual maximum in the permanent waivers</b>	<b>Approved through previous Appendix K submissions</b>	<b>2% increase</b>					
Additional Staffing Basic	15 Minute	4.67	4.90	5.00					
Additional Staffing Enhanced	15 Minute	5.01	5.26	5.37					
Adult Dental Services	Procedure	500.00	525	535.50					
Adult Occupational Therapy Services		varied							
97165	1 Evaluation	67.21	70.57	71.98					
97166	1 Evaluation	67.21	70.57	71.98					
97167	1 Evaluation	67.21	70.57	71.98					
97168	1 Evaluation	44.40	46.62	47.55					
97530	15 Minute	28.23	29.64	30.23					
97533	15 Minute	24.46	25.68	26.19					
97760	15 Minute	27.38	28.75	29.33					
97761	15 Minute	24.98	26.23	26.75					
97763	15 Minute	23.39	24.56	25.05					
Adult Physical Therapy Services		varied							
97161	1 Evaluation	69.34	72.81	74.27					

97162	1 Evaluati on	69.34	72.81	74.27					
97163	1 Evaluati on	69.34	72.81	74.27					
97164	1 Evaluati on	47.14	49.5	50.49					
97110	15 Minute	25.91	27.21	27.75					
97112	15 Minute	27.07	28.42	28.99					
Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services									
92523	1 Evaluati on	163.81	172	175.44					
92507	1 Visit	62.53	65.66	66.97					
92607	1 Evaluati on	109.28	114.74	117.03					
92610	1 Evaluati on	117.54	123.42	125.89					
92609	1 Visit	54.75	57.49	58.64					
92526	1 Visit	44.66	46.89	47.83					
Behavioral Supports Services - Level 1	15 Minute	18.75	19.69	20.08					
Behavioral Supports Services - Level 2	15 Minute	23.56	24.74	25.23					
Community Access Group	15 Minute	3.10	3.58	3.65					
Community Access Individual	15 Minute	7.41	8.56	8.73					
Community Guide	15 Minute	8.93	9.38	9.57					
Community Living Support - Basic	15 Minute	6.35	7.34	7.49					
Community Living Support - Basic - 2 Person	15 Minute	3.49	4.03	4.11					
Community Living Support - Basic - 3 Person	15 Minute	2.54	2.93	2.99					
Community Living Support - Extended Services	15 Minute	5.74	6.63	6.76					
Community Living Support - Extended Services - 2 Person	15 Minute	3.16	3.65	3.72					
Community Living Support - Extended Services - 3 Person	15 Minute	2.30	2.66	2.71					
Community Living Support - Personal Assistance Retainer	15 Minute	5.74	6.63	6.76					
Community Residential Alternative - 5 Person	Daily	158.67	183.27	186.94					

Community Residential Alternative Services – 3 Person - Tier 1	Daily	178.53	206.20	210.32					
Community Residential Alternative Services – 3 Person - Tier 2	Daily	235.05	271.49	276.92					
Community Residential Alternative Services – 3 Person - Tier 3	Daily	261.48	302.01	308.05					
Community Residential Alternative Services – 3 Person - Tier 4	Daily	277.44	320.44	326.85					
Community Residential Alternative Services – 4 Person - Tier 1	Daily	154.74	178.72	182.29					
Community Residential Alternative Services – 4 Person - Tier 2	Daily	214.80	248.09	253.05					
Community Residential Alternative Services – 4 Person - Tier 3	Daily	239.73	276.89	282.43					
Community Residential Alternative Services – 4 Person - Tier 4	Daily	254.36	293.79	299.67					
Community Residential Alternative Services – Host Home – Category 1 – Daily – Level 1,2,3,4	Daily	149.45	156.92	160.06					
Community Residential Alternative Services – Host Home – Category 2 – Daily – Level 5,6,7	Daily	185.25	194.51	198.40					
Financial Support Services	Monthly	75.00	99.75	101.75					
Intensive Support Coordination	Monthly	461.00	484.05	493.73					
Interpreter Services	15 Minute	19.38	20.35	20.76					
Natural Supports Training	15 Minute	20.78	21.82	22.26					
Nursing LPN	15 Minute	8.75	10.50	10.71					
Nursing RN	15 Minute	10.00	10.5	10.71					
Nutrition Evaluation (& Follow-up)		varied							
97802	1 Evaluation	14.89	15.63	15.94					
97803	15 Minute	14.89	15.63	15.94					
Prevocational Services	15 Minute	3.10	3.26	3.33					
Respite Services (In Home) - 1 Member	15 Minute	4.83	5.07	5.17					
Respite Services (In Home) - 2 Member	15 Minute	2.66	2.79	2.85					
Respite Services (In Home) - 3 Member	15 Minute	1.93	2.03	2.07					
Respite Services (Out of Home)	15 Minute	4.83	5.07	5.17					
Respite Services Overnight - Category 1	Daily	153.61	161.29	164.52					
Respite Services Overnight - Category 2	Daily	209.51	219.99	224.39					
Support Coordination	Monthly	152.88	183.75	187.43					



Supported Employment Group	15 Minute	2.02	2.12	2.16					
Supported Employment Individual	15 Minute	8.15	8.56	8.73					
Beginning July 1, 2022: Temporary increases in service maximum annual allowance by 2% to align with the 2% rate increases.									
<b>Service Name</b>	<b>Unit of Measure</b>	<b>Approved annual maximum in the permanent waivers</b>	<b>Approved through previous Appendix K submissions</b>	<b>2% increase</b>					
Environmental Accessibility Adaptation	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 10,400.00	\$ 10,920.00	\$ 11,138.00					
Individual Directed Goods and Services	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 1,606.00					
Specialized Medical Equipment	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,460.00	\$ 5,569.00					
Specialized Medical Supplies	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,990.00	\$ 4,069.00					
Transportation	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 2,797.00	\$ 2,936.00	\$ 2,994.00					
Vehicle Adaptation Services	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 6,240.00	\$ 6,552.00	\$ 6,683.00					
Beginning July 1, 2022: Temporary increases in service maximum annual allowance by 2% to align with the 2% rate increases.									
<b>Self Directed Services</b>									
<b>Service Name</b>	<b>Unit of Measure</b>	<b>Approved annual maximum in the permanent waivers</b>	<b>Approved through previous Appendix K submissions</b>	<b>2% increase</b>					

Adult Occupational Therapy		\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,670.00	\$ 5,783.00	Annual Max is Shared between Therapies				
Adult Physical Therapy	Varied				Annual Max is Shared between Therapies				
Adult Speech & Language Therapy					Annual Max is Shared between Therapies				
Community Access Group	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 17,856.00	\$ 20,620.00	\$ 21,024.00					
Community Access Individual	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 10,670.00	\$ 12,326.00	\$ 12,571.00					
Community Guide Services	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,101.00	\$ 2,143.00					
Community Living Support Services (NOW)	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 39,999.00	\$ 46,198.00	\$ 47,122.00					
Community Living Support Services (COMP)	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 51,300.00	\$ 59,251.00	\$ 60,436.00					
Natural Supports Training Services	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 1,787.00	\$ 1,876.00	\$ 1,914.00					
Respite Services (In-Home) - NOW	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 4,608.00	\$ 4,838.00	\$ 4,935.00					
Respite Services (In-Home) - Category 1 - COMP	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 4,608.00	\$ 4,838.00	\$ 4,935.00					
Respite Services (In-Home) - Category 2 - COMP	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 6,599.00	\$ 6,731.00					
Respite Services (Out of Home) - Category 1	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 4,608.00	\$ 4,838.00	\$ 4,935.00					
Respite Services (Out of Home) - Category 2	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 6,599.00	\$ 6,731.00					
Respite Services Overnight - Category 1	Daily	\$ 4,608.00	\$ 4,838.00	\$ 4,935.00					
Respite Services Overnight - Category 2	Daily	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 6,599.00	\$ 6,731.00					
Supported Employment Individual (NOW)	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 17,856.00	\$ 18,748.00	\$ 19,123.00	Annual Max is Shared between Individual & Group				
Supported Employment Group (NOW)	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	0	.00	.00	Annual Max is Shared between Individual & Group				
Supported Employment Individual (COMP)	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	\$ 10,454.00	\$ 10,976.00	\$ 11,196.00	Annual Max is Shared between Individual & Group				
Supported Employment Group (COMP)	1 Dollar (1 Unit)	0	.00	.00	Annual Max is Shared between Individual & Group				

**g. \_\_\_ Temporarily modify person-centered service plan development process and individual(s) responsible for person-centered service plan development, including qualifications.**

[Describe any modifications including qualifications of individuals responsible for service plan development, and address Participant Safeguards. Also include strategies to ensure that services are received as authorized.]

**h. \_\_\_ Temporarily modify incident reporting requirements, medication management or other participant safeguards to ensure individual health and welfare, and to account for emergency circumstances. [Explanation of changes]**

**i. \_\_\_ Temporarily allow for payment for services for the purpose of supporting waiver participants in an acute care hospital or short-term institutional stay when necessary supports (including communication and intensive personal care) are not available in that setting, or when the individual requires those services for communication and behavioral stabilization, and such services are not covered in such settings.**

[Specify the services.]

**j. \_\_\_ Temporarily include retainer payments to address emergency related issues.**

[Describe the circumstances under which such payments are authorized and applicable limits on their duration. Retainer payments are available for habilitation and personal care only.]

**k. \_\_\_ Temporarily institute or expand opportunities for self-direction.**

[Provide an overview and any expansion of self-direction opportunities including a list of services that may be self-directed and an overview of participant safeguards.]

**l. \_\_\_ Increase Factor C.**

[Explain the reason for the increase and list the current approved Factor C as well as the proposed revised Factor C]

**m. \_\_\_ Other Changes Necessary [For example, any changes to billing processes, use of contracted entities or any other changes needed by the State to address imminent needs of individuals in the waiver program]. [Explanation of changes]**

## Appendix K Addendum: COVID-19 Pandemic Response

### 1. HCBS Regulations

- a.  Not comply with the HCBS settings requirement at 42 CFR 441.301(c)(4)(vi)(D) that individuals are able to have visitors of their choosing at any time, for settings added after March 17, 2014, to minimize the spread of infection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2. Services**

- a.  Add an electronic method of service delivery (e.g. telephonic) allowing services to continue to be provided remotely in the home setting for:
  - i.  Case management
  - ii.  Personal care services that only require verbal cueing
  - iii.  In-home habilitation
  - iv.  Monthly monitoring (i.e., in order to meet the reasonable indication of need for services requirement in 1915(c) waivers).
  - v.  Other *[Describe]*:

- b.  Add home-delivered meals
- c.  Add medical supplies, equipment and appliances (over and above that which is in the state plan)
- d.  Add Assistive Technology

**3. Conflict of Interest: The state is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic personnel crisis by authorizing case management entities to provide direct services. Therefore, the case management entity qualifies under 42 CFR 441.301(c)(1)(vi) as the only willing and qualified entity.**

- a.  Current safeguards authorized in the approved waiver will apply to these entities.
- b.  Additional safeguards listed below will apply to these entities.

**4. Provider Qualifications**

- a.  Allow spouses and parents of minor children to provide personal care services
- b.  Allow a family member to be paid to render services to an individual.
- c.  Allow other practitioners in lieu of approved providers within the waiver. *[Indicate the providers and their qualifications]*

- d.  Modify service providers for home-delivered meals to allow for additional providers, including non-traditional providers.

**5. Processes**

- a.  Allow an extension for reassessments and reevaluations for up to one year past the due date.
- b.  Allow the option to conduct evaluations, assessments, and person-centered service planning meetings virtually/remotely in lieu of face-to-face meetings.

- c.  Adjust prior approval/authorization elements approved in waiver.
- d.  Adjust assessment requirements
- e.  Add an electronic method of signing off on required documents such as the person-centered service plan.

## Contact Person(s)

### A. The Medicaid agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the request:

**First Name:** Lynnette  
**Last Name:** Rhodes  
**Title:** Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans  
**Agency:** Georgia Department of Community Health  
**Address 1:** 2 Peachtree St. NW  
**Address 2:** 36<sup>th</sup> Floor  
**City:** Atlanta  
**State:** GA  
**Zip Code:** 30303  
**Telephone:** 404-656-7513  
**E-mail:** lrhodes@dch.ga.gov  
**Fax Number:** Click or tap here to enter text.

### B. If applicable, the State operating agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

**First Name:** Ashleigh  
**Last Name:** Caseman  
**Title:** Director, Waiver Programs  
**Agency:** Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities  
**Address 1:** 2 Peachtree St. NW  
**Address 2:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
**City:** Atlanta  
**State:** GA  
**Zip Code:** 30303  
**Telephone:** 404-463-1799  
**E-mail:** Ashleigh.Caseman@dbhdd.ga.gov  
**Fax Number:** 678-222-4948

## 8. Authorizing Signature

**Signature:**

**Date:**

6/21/2022

/S/

State Medicaid Director or Designee


**First Name:** Lynnette  
**Last Name** Rhodes  
**Title:** Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans  
**Agency:** Georgia Department of Community Health  
**Address 1:** 2 Peachtree St. NW  
**Address 2:** 36<sup>th</sup> Floor  
**City** Atlanta  
**State** GA  
**Zip Code** 30303  
**Telephone:** 404-656-7513  
**E-mail** [lrhodes@dch.ga.gov](mailto:lrhodes@dch.ga.gov)  
**Fax Number** Click or tap here to enter text.

## Section A---Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency

Complete for each service added during a time of emergency. For services in the approved waiver that the state is temporarily modifying, enter the entire service definition and highlight the change. State laws, regulations and policies referenced in the specification should be readily available to CMS upon request through the Medicaid agency or the operating agency (if applicable).

Service Specification			
Service Title:			
<i>Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:</i>			
Service Definition (Scope):			
Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:			
Provider Specifications			
Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input type="checkbox"/> Agency. List the types of agencies:
Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Relative/Legal Guardian
<b>Provider Qualifications</b> <i>(provide the following information for each type of provider):</i>			
Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>
<b>Verification of Provider Qualifications</b>			
Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:		Frequency of Verification
Service Delivery Method			
<b>Service Delivery Method</b> <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input type="checkbox"/> Provider managed





---

<sup>i</sup> Numerous changes that the state may want to make may necessitate authority outside of the scope of section 1915(c) authority. States interested in changes to administrative claiming or changes that require section 1115 or section 1135 authority should engage CMS in a discussion as soon as possible. Some examples may include: (a) changes to administrative activities, such as the establishment of a hotline; or (b) suspension of general Medicaid rules that are not addressed under section 1915(c) such as payment rules or eligibility rules or suspension of provisions of section 1902(a) to which 1915(c) is typically bound.