

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.

Elderly and Disabled Waiver (E&D) Rate Increase and Quality Incentive Program

Effective with an approved amendment by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 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 for Enhanced Case Management, Alternative Living Services, and Personal Support Services. The rate change represents a 6.67% increase. The rate increase for Personal Support Services and Alternative Living Services 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 rate increase for Enhanced Case Management is funded through a legislative appropriation.

The following rates are proposed to change:

Service	Rate Prior to CMS Approval	Rate Post CMS Approval
Enhanced Case Management	\$175.00 per month	\$186.67 per month
Personal Support Service	\$4.74 per 15 minute unit	\$5.05 per 15 minute unit
Personal Support Service Ext.	\$4.21 per 15 minute unit	\$4.49 per 15 minute unit
Alternative Living Services	\$35.04 per day	\$37.38 per day

Additionally, a 1%, 2% or 3% provider quality incentive for outcomes achieved by eligible enhanced case management agencies will be assessed to the enhanced case management monthly unit rate for all qualified providers beginning with CMS approval of the waiver amendment. The quality incentive is earned by a combination of measures through which an eligible provider earns points. Provider eligibility is based upon participation in the quality program through administering a customer survey that tracks the measures and attendance to recommended educational and training events. Additional points for Program Measures are earned for the agency's success in limiting nursing facility admissions and keeping the member in the community and in the rate of validated level of care reviews of members for whom the agency submitted application. Finally, a third tier of points may be earned based on the percentage of members who ranked the agency excellent across several domains in the customer satisfaction survey.

A provider is eligible for an incentive based on the following:

- * To earn the 1% add-on, companies must score 3 points in Part 1: Baseline Measures.
- * To earn the 2% add-on, companies must score 3 points in Part 1: Baseline Measures PLUS at least 1 point from Part 2: Program Measures.

- * To earn the 3% add-on, companies must score 3 points in Part 1: Baseline Measures PLUS at least 1 point from Part 2: Program Measures PLUS at least 7 points from Part 3: Consumer Survey Measures.

This algorithm may be modified for future fiscal years to more accurately reflect the performance and quality provided by the providers.

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	\$ 1,011,764	\$ 344,400
Aged, Blind, and Disabled, SFY 2016	\$ 4,814,348	\$1,640,248
Aged, Blind, and Disabled, SFY 2017	\$19,257,391	\$6,560,993

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 10:00a.m.** 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