

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. §447.205 and 42 C.F.R. §441.301(c)(6)(iii), 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 or making substantive changes in its home and community-based services waivers.

Elderly and Disabled Waiver (E&D) Renewal

Effective with approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and subject to payment at Fee-For-Service rates, the Department is submitting a renewal application for the Elderly and Disabled waiver. The waiver renewal is required every five years and the currently approved waiver expires September 30, 2017. Additions to the waiver renewal that constitute substantive changes are described below.

The following services are added to the waiver as part of the renewal:

Service	Previously Administered	Proposed Rate with Renewal
Traditional Case Management	Administrative Contract	\$175 per member per month
Transition Coordination (Pre-Discharge)	Money Follows the Person	\$175 per member per month
Transition Coordination (Month 1-6)	Money Follows the Person	\$175 per member per month
Transition Coordination (Month 7-12)	Money Follows the Person	\$150 per member per month
Transition Coordination Incentive for Stable Transition	Money Follows the Person	\$1000 one-time payment
Transition Services and Supports	Money Follows the Person	\$1 equals 1 unit with a lifetime max of \$20,000
Transition Community Integration Services	Money Follows the Person	\$1 equals 1 unit with a lifetime max of \$2,500

More detailed information about transition services can be found in Georgia's Money Follows the Person Sustainability Plan posted at: www.dch.georgia.gov/hcbs

Funding for transition services to be provided through 2020 or until exhausted whichever comes first, by rebalancing earnings from enhanced match funding associated with Money Follows the Person. Funding for Traditional Case Management provided by converting funding from administrative contracts to standard Fee for Service billing methodology.

Additional Waiver Participant Slots

As allocated by funding appropriated by the Georgia Legislature, the number of slots in the Elderly and Disabled waiver will increase by 234 slots. State funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 were allocated specific to prioritizing individuals on the waiting list with an Alzheimer's or related dementia diagnosis. This funding affords 100 additional slots. Reserve capacity has been established in the waiver application to prioritize these 100 slots. Additionally, the Georgia legislature allocated \$1,377,969 in State funds for additional non-designated slots in the Elderly and Disabled waiver. This equates to an additional 134 slots which were added to the total unduplicated count in the waiver application.

Other Changes

As it pertains to eligibility, the waiver has been modified to accept individuals under the Medically Needy provision who would otherwise be ineligible due to income without a Qualified Income Trust.

The Department has enhanced quality monitoring and oversight throughout the waiver with the addition of language related to the development of a Quality Assurance Unit within Medicaid. The Quality Assurance Unit will monitor all aspects of health, safety and quality measures throughout the waiver.

Public input to inform the waiver renewal was gathered from public forums and provider association meetings. The draft waiver is currently posted on the DCH website for public review at www.dch.georgia.gov/waivers.

Financial Impact

The fiscal impact of these changes are estimated to be cost neutral:

Program	Total Funds	State Funds
Aged, Blind, and Disabled, SFY 2018	\$ 0	\$ 0
Aged, Blind, and Disabled, SFY 2019	\$ 0	\$ 0
Aged, Blind, and Disabled, SFY 2020	\$ 0	\$ 0

In accordance with the Home and Community Services Settings Rule, substantive changes to waiver programs require a minimum public comment period of 30 days. 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 **July 27, 2017** at 11:00 a.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 **August 14, 2017**, 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. Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **September 14, 2017** 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 13th DAY OF JULY, 2017

Frank W. Berry, Commissioner