

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.

New Options Waiver (NOW) Program Renewal Proposed Changes

Effective as of the date of waiver renewal approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and subject to payment at fee for service rates, the Department is proposing to make the following changes to Medicaid reimbursement for specific services provided through the NOW Waiver Program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These changes are being incorporated into the overall renewal application for the NOW waiver currently posted on the DCH website. These changes represent the major modifications to the waiver in the renewal application.

Establish six rates for Community Living Support Services, adding an “extended” rate to reflect lower provider costs in the areas of travel compensation and unproductive time not incurred in service delivery to the same waiver participant during a visit of 3 hours or more. Proposed rates also reflect the addition of Shared Community Living Support Services, designed to accommodate staffing patterns that reflect the ability of 2 or 3 waiver participants to live semi-independently through sharing one staff member for oversight and limited assistance.

Community Living Support Services		Unit	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
	Basic	15-minute Up to 11 units	\$5.03	\$6.35
	Extended	15-minute ≥ 12 units	\$5.03	\$5.74
Shared: 2 waiver participants	Basic	15-minute Up to 11 units	N/A	\$3.49
	Extended	15-minute ≥ 12 units	N/A	\$3.16
Shared: 3 waiver participants	Basic	15-minute Up to 11 units	N/A	\$2.54
	Extended	15-minute ≥ 12 units	N/A	\$2.30

Establish five rates for Respite Services that facilitate respite in the participant’s family home for short periods of time and in an out-of-home setting for overnight or full-day use. Waiver participants may use a combination of in-home and out-of-home respite services not to exceed a total annual limit of \$4,608 for Category 1 or \$6,285 for Category 2 Respite identified through assessed need.

Respite Services		Unit	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Maximum Allowed
1 waiver participant		15-minute	\$4.21	\$4.83	\$4,608 annual limit
2 waiver participants		15-minute	N/A	\$2.66	
3 waiver participants		15-minute	N/A	\$1.93	
Daily/Overnight	Category 1	Day	\$96.00	\$153.61	30 units/ year
Daily/Overnight	Category 2	Day	N/A	\$209.51	

Add Adult Nutrition Services, a new service to the waiver, using the current reimbursement rate and procedure codes approved in the Medicaid State Plan and provided under the Children’s Intervention Services Program.

Nutrition Services Procedure Codes		Unit	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Maximum Allowed
Nutrition Evaluation and follow up	97802	15-minute	N/A	\$14.89	\$1,800 total for any procedure codes
	97803				

Increase the maximum allowable Adult Therapy Services.

Service Type	Unit	Current Maximum	Proposed Maximum
Occupational Therapy (Adult)	15-minute	\$1,800.00 annual maximum for all adult therapy waiver services	\$5,400 annual maximum for all adult therapy waiver services
Speech and Language Therapy (Adult)			
Physical therapy (Adult)			

Increase the maximum allowable Supported Employment Services.

Service Type	Unit	Current Maximum	Proposed Maximum
Supported Employment – Group	15-minute	\$10,670 annual maximum	\$17,856 annual maximum
Supported Employment - Individual			

These rates were determined as the result of a rate study commissioned by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities specific to the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program but apply to the same services also offered in the NOW Program. For more details, the rate study is available online at <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/residential-and-respite-cost-study>. The current rates for all other services approved through the waiver remain unchanged.

This public notice is available for review at each county Department of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **July 27, 2017, 10:30 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 38406, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

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