

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 Amendment Proposed Changes to the Current Approved Waiver Reimbursement Rates

Effective as of the date of waiver renewal approval by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, State funds appropriation by the Georgia General Assembly, 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 Program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities:

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	Maximum Allowed
	Basic	15-minute Up to 11 units	\$5.03	\$6.35	\$51,300 annually
	Extended	15-minute ≥ 12 units	\$5.03	\$5.74	
Shared: 2 waiver participants	Basic	15-minute Up to 11 units	N/A	\$3.49	\$51,300 annually
	Extended	15-minute ≥ 12 units	N/A	\$3.16	
Shared: 3 waiver participants	Basic	15-minute Up to 11 units	N/A	\$2.54	\$51,300 annually
	Extended	15-minute ≥ 12 units	N/A	\$2.30	
		Daily	\$131.09	Eliminate; use 15-minute unit	N/A
Maximum per person allowed for any of the service descriptions					\$51,300/year

Add Intensive Support Coordination Services, a service added to the COMP Waiver Program and used to provide oversight and intensive monitoring of individuals with complex medical and/or behavioral needs. Clinical teams with expertise in specific risk areas will provide this service.

Community Living Support Services	Unit	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Maximum Allowed
Intensive Support Coordination	month	N/A	\$461.00	1/month

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.

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 97803	15-minute	N/A	\$14.89	\$1,800 total for any procedure codes

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)			

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. The rates were previously approved for the COMP waiver and are being applied to the NOW waiver for equity. 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.

The total fiscal impact is \$ 8,633,477 (\$2,801,563 state funds).

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 30, 2016** 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. 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 12, 2016**, 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 **October 13, 2016** 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 11th DAY OF AUGUST, 2016.

Clyde L. Reese, III, Esquire, Commissioner