



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

To: DDS Qualified Providers

From: Jordan A. Scheff, DDS Commissioner

CC: Elisa Velardo, Deputy Commissioner; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; Krista Ostaszewski, Health Management Administrator; Sean Bannon, Operations Center Director; Regional Directors; Assistant Regional Directors; Regional Resource Administrators

Date: March 21, 2023

RE: **HCBS ARPA & Associated Updates**

Dear Providers,

This memo is to provide DDS qualified providers an update on some of the work being done specific to the **DDS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) ARPA plan**. The transformative work that is underway continues to focus on moving toward models that focus on independence, choice and community integration. We are excited to continue this journey with you and hope that the following updates provide additional details on how we are working to help improve and expand supports for the individuals we serve.

As many are aware, the federal government has announced that the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) is May 11, 2023. This means the Appendix K, which is the method in which changes to HCBS ARPA plans are initiated in order to be approved retroactively, must be submitted to CMS prior to this date.

Understanding the condensed timeline associated, DDS has begun the process to request revisions to the HCBS ARPA plan. The proposed revisions were developed in coordination and partnership with the DDS ARPA Advisory committees, focus on expanding options for providers to grow their supports and to increase flexibility in which incentives can be paid to those providers that meet the articulated criteria. A summary of the proposed changes under review are below:

1. Incentive-based outcome payments to any qualified residential or day provider covered under the waivers that submits a transition plan that is approved by DDS.

2. Incentive-based outcome payments for any qualified residential and revised to include day provider covered under the waivers that transitions a waiver participant from a congregate residential setting toward a more integrated community-based setting or a waiver participant from a congregate day setting toward a more community-based employment setting, as identified in the approved transition plan.
3. Incentive-based outcome payments to any qualified residential or day provider covered under the waivers that completes certain objectives, as part of the approved transition plan to the satisfaction of the DDS.
4. An incentive payment for any DDS qualified provider that completes the National Core Indicator IDD State of the Workforce Survey.
5. An incentive payment for DDS qualified providers that meet the articulated criteria training expectations consistent with professional standards from accepted accreditation or certification entities such as the Connecticut Association of People Supporting Employment First (CTAPSE), Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE), or other similarly recognized organizations.
6. An incentive payment for any DDS qualified providers that meet the articulated criteria for training expectations consistent with Technology First SHIFT LLC, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Assistive Technology professional or other similarly recognized organizations that focus on utilization of Assistive Technology.
7. Temporary increases for specific employment and residential waiver service authorizations covered under the waivers.

All proposed changes are being requested retroactive to February 1, 2023. Additional details as well as a full copy of the Appendix K application can be viewed [here](#). Please note, that this process is currently under its 30-day public comment period. Any comments to these revisions must be submitted by April 13, 2023 to Krista Ostaszewski, Health Management Administrator, DDS Central Office, 460 Capitol Avenue Hartford, Connecticut, 06106, or via email at Krista.Ostaszewski@ct.gov.

Once the public comment period has ended, DDS will work with the legislature to request a public hearing. From there, the application is then submitted to CMS. It is important to reiterate that all changes are proposed at this time, and we are unable to implement any such provisions until CMS approval is received. In addition, all provisions are temporary within the ARPA period.

For more information about DDS ARPA Plans please visit [here](#).

Looking forward to our continued work together!

Thank you.

Jordan A. Scheff, DDS Commissioner