



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

Operation Center Memo FY2018-18

To: DDS Qualified Providers

From: Scott McWilliams, Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services

CC: Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner, Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner, Regional Directors, Private ARDs, Resource Administrators, The Arc CT, CT Community Nonprofit Alliance, Inc.

Date: May 23, 2018

RE: Implementation of Special Act 18-5 An Act Concerning Minimum Employee Wages for Providers of State-Administered Services for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

The Governor signed Special Act 18-5, An Act Concerning Minimum Employee Wages for Providers of State-Administered Services for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, into law on May 9, 2018. The bill allows the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to allocate funds to increase the wages of certain employees who provide services to individuals with intellectual disability authorized to receive supports and services through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Specifically, the bill increases the minimum wage for these employees to \$14.75 per hour and provides a five percent wage increase for employees earning between \$14.76 and \$30.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2019.

Providers **should not** include the wage increases in their budget planning at this time. The Department anticipates that it will take several months to determine a final implementation methodology, as we work with providers and OPM on data collection and funding details. Our first step will be to convene a small work group, inclusive of providers, to offer input on data collection. Once the parameters of the data request have been determined, DDS will collect employee and wage data for all affected providers.

Importantly, we must obtain full compliance from all providers in order to develop a final methodology, so please be prepared to work with us on submission of the requested information. We will use the data collected to work with the Department of Social Services and OPM to develop a reimbursement methodology that will achieve the objective of the bill and maximize federal revenue.

We look forward to working closely with the provider community to deliver this wage increase to your dedicated and deserving employees.