

Department of Developmental Services- CT
Service Definition
Training and Counseling Services for Unpaid Caregivers

1. SERVICE TITLE

Training and Counseling Services for Unpaid Caregivers

2. SERVICE DEFINITION- Limitations

This service is available for self-direction only (i.e., purchased from a qualified practitioner)

Training and counseling services for individuals (such as parents, siblings, extended family or circle of support.) who provide **unpaid** support, training, companionship or supervision to waiver participants.

Service can be provided in participants own home, family home, employment/jobsite or community.

For purposes of this service, individual is defined as any person, family member, neighbor, friend, companion, or co-worker who provides uncompensated care, guidance, companionship or support to a person served on the waiver.

This service may not be provided in order to train paid caregivers. Training includes instruction about treatment regimens and other services included in the service plan, use of equipment specified in the service plan, and includes updates as necessary to safely maintain the participant at home. Counseling must be aimed at assisting the unpaid caregiver in meeting the needs of the participant.

Waiver participant does not need to be present for caregiver to receive this service.

All training for the benefit of the care giver who provides unpaid support to the participant must be included in the participant's Individual Plan.

Follow family hiring guidelines that are currently in place.

3. SERVICE SETTINGS

This service originates from the individual's home and is delivered in the community as described in the treatment/support plan in the person's Individual Plan.

4. GENERAL SERVICE LIMITATIONS- maximum \$1200 per year

- This service is available to unpaid caregivers.
- Use Fiscal Intermediary (FI) to facilitate payment and reimbursement. (meets professional standard)
- Is available for the costs of registration and training fees associated with formal instruction in areas relevant to participant needs identified in the Individual Plan.
- Is not available for the costs of travel, meals and overnight lodging to attend a training event or conference.

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5. SELF-DIRECTED SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Be at least 18 year old;

Other qualifications as determined by the participant with their Planning and Support Team.- Document in IP.

All training for care giver who provides unpaid support to the participant must be included in the participant's Individual Plan.

Qualifications comparable to service being provided- counseling- must be a qualified licensed counselor under DPH

No CDS required

Entity Responsible for Verification of Provider Qualifications

Fiscal Intermediary

FI will require an invoice

Frequency of Verification

Initial and as needed thereafter

6. UNIT OF SERVICE AND METHOD OF PAYMENT

Is available for the costs of registration and training fees associated with formal instruction in areas relevant to participant needs identified in the Individual Plan and identify frequency such as monthly or bimonthly at max rate of \$100 per hour/\$1200 per year.

Example: Counseling \$120 per hour

DDS waiver will pay \$100 per hour up to 12 sessions or the co-pay if their insurance covers service

Provider invoices must be sent directly to the FI.

No third party payment or reimbursements to the unpaid caregiver(DDS or FI will not pay unpaid caregiver directly or reimburse for a service)

No prior approval required.

Service must be in IP going forward and cannot submit a prior approval after the service has been provided.

7. RATE FOR SERVICE FOR QUALIFIED PROVIDER OR SELF-DIRECTED

See rate table: <http://www.ct.gov/dds/cwp/view.asp?a=3166&q=505668>

8. SERVICE DOCUMENTATION

During the 6 month review process the case manager will document the benefit of this service.

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9. HOW TO OBTAIN TRAINING AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR UNPAID CAREGIVERS

An unpaid caregiver may request this service in collaboration with the Planning and Support Team. The team must revise or update the person's Individual Plan (IP) to include the need for this service in the *Action Plan*. The team determines the estimated amount of service within the defined service limitations. This service must be funded within the person's existing budget unless there are extenuating circumstances that would require PRAT review and approval. This Service must be included in the *Summary of Supports and Services or IP.6*, indicating the amount and frequency of service. If PRAT recommends denial of the request it will be sent to the Central Office Waiver Unit for review.