

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice of Intent to Submit Emergency Preparedness and Response Amendments (Appendix K) to the Department's 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waivers

In accordance with the provisions of section 17b-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (“DSS” or the “Department”) intends to submit two Emergency Preparedness and Response Amendments (“Appendix K amendments”) related to certain of the Department’s 1915(c) home and community-based services (HCBS) Medicaid waivers.

The Appendix K amendments are temporary and expire six months following the expiration of the Federal public health emergency related to the continued consequences of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The amendments are additive to the previously approved Appendix Ks. The following is a summary of the proposed changes, as more-fully described in the Appendix K amendments.

I. The Department is proposing temporary increases in provider payment rates for the following 1915(c) HCBS Medicaid waivers:

- Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Elders
- Personal Care Assistance Waiver
- Acquired Brain Injury Waiver
- Acquired Brain Injury Waiver II
- Home and Community Supports Waiver for Persons with Autism
- Mental Health Waiver
- Katie Beckett Waiver

The temporary provider rates, as more fully described in the Appendix K, include the following:

- A. Supplemental rate funding for value-based payment (VBP) increased from 1% to 2% VBP as approved under the ARPA reinvestment plan, effective 7/1/2022, with the VBP increase contingent on: participation in race-equity

training; connection to the state's health information exchange (HIE); and reporting of quality and financial data.

B. Supplemental rate funding for certain improvements in meaningful use of data.

II. The Department is proposing to temporarily modify services on the following 1915(c) HCBS Medicaid waivers:

- Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Elders
- Personal Care Assistance Waiver
- Acquired Brain Injury Waiver
- Acquired Brain Injury Waiver II
- Home and Community Supports Waiver for Persons with Autism

The temporary service changes, as more fully described in the Appendix K, include the following:

A. Addition of Remote Support as a new service. The service definition includes the following:

“Remote supports” means the provision of supports by staff at a remote location who are engaged with the individual through technology/devices with the capability for live two-way communication. Equipment used to meet this requirement must include one or more of the following systems: motion sensing system, radio frequency identification, live video feed, live audio feed, GPS tracking, web-based monitoring system, or a device that otherwise meets the requirement for two-way communication. Individual interaction with the staff person may be scheduled, on-demand, or in response to an alert from a device in the remote support equipment system.

The use of an intrusive device that signals the whereabouts or movements of an individual to ensure the safety of the individual or safety of the community, or a restriction that prevents an individual from having access to specific experiences, must always be reviewed and approved by DSS.

Remote supports include a monthly equipment cost covered under assistive technology and a virtual support fee-for-service cost.

Remote supports may not be provided at the same time as any other direct support service nor at the same time as adult day, assisted living, adult family living, respite or personal emergency response.

- B. Addition of new provider types, as well as new rate for on-call personal care attendant services and remote live personal care attendant service during the duration of this Appendix K. New providers of personal care attendant services include adult day providers and remote support providers as further defined in the Appendix K. Provider types are updated to include providers who are certified community hubs.
- C. The definition of assistive technology is modified to specifically reference remote equipment and the associated requirements for internet access.

A complete text of the Appendix K amendments are available, at no cost, upon request to the Community Options Unit, Department of Social Services, 55 Farmington Ave., Hartford, Connecticut 06105; or via email to Jennifer.Cavallaro@ct.gov. It is also available on the Department's website, www.ct.gov/dss, under "News and Press," as well as the following direct link: <http://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicaid-Waiver-Applications/Medicaid-Waiver-Applications>. In addition, it is also available on the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) website, www.ct.gov/dmhas, under "What's New!" as well as the following link: <https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Programs-and-Services/Mental-Health-Waiver/Mental-Health-Waiver>.

Any written comments must be submitted by **January 27, 2023** to the Department of Social Services, Community Options Unit, 55 Farmington Ave, Hartford, CT 06105, Attention: Jennifer Cavallaro, Director; or via email to Jennifer.Cavallaro@ct.gov.