



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

April 2, 2020

Dear Individuals, Families and Guardians,

As the Department recently communicated, on March 27, 2020 CT DDS received federal approval for our Appendix K application. This approval simply allows DDS to provide current waiver services with some flexibility, while continuing to receive federal match on such services throughout the COVID-19 health crisis.

This waiver does not provide DDS with additional funding and does not automatically change your family member's current plan or allocation from DDS.

Below is a list of options the Appendix K temporarily allows for DDS waiver services. These options may be approved within your current allocation and available funding. It is important to note that DDS has implemented an internal review process for approval on many of the options listed. **Please continue to work with your assigned case manager on any changes or questions you have about your current supports and services.**

Appendix K approval allows DDS to authorize:

- Self-directed workers to be paid during member hospitalization associated with COVID-19 for up to 30 days.
- Meals on wheels as a service for individuals in their own home. *DDS is currently developing a rate to implement this in emergency situations.*
- Legal guardians to provide certain waiver services and be compensated for such care. *This will be reviewed and approved on a case by case basis for emergency circumstances. Please work with your case manager for more information.*
- Retainer payments for all residential and day programs to ensure continuous operations.
- Individualized Home Supports to be provided in a group, telephonically, or via electronic face to face system.
- Behavioral Supports to be provided telephonically or via an electronic face to face system.
- Group Day Support to be provided in a 1 to 1 setting, in the home, telephonically or via electronic face to face system.

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An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

- Group Supported Employment to be provided in the home, telephonically or via electronic face to face system.
- Individualized Day Support to be provided in the home, telephonically or via electronic face to face system.
- Individualized Supported Employment to be provided in the home, telephonically or via electronic face to face system.
- Personal supports to be provided telephonically or via electronic face to face system only if the person can perform tasks with verbal prompts or cues such as household chores, laundry, cooking etc.
- Prevocational services to be provided in the home in a 1 to 1 setting.
- Senior Supports to be provided via electronic face to face system.
- Transitional Employment services to be provided in the home or via electronic face to face system.

Appendix K approval also waives the following:

- Current 30-day respite limitation.
- The in-person requirement for level of need assessments and IP meetings. *Meetings can be conducted over the phone through tele-conference or extended based on case manager review and approval.*

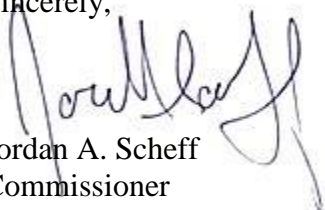
Many of these options may provide families with the necessary flexibility to ensure your loved ones receive the supports and services they need. Please understand that the department continues to work with case managers and providers to implement these options as quickly as possible within available funding. Please continue to communicate with your case manager regarding any questions or change requests. Case Managers will work with families and providers to provide the most appropriate supports and services.

Please be assured that all decisions made by the department are done with the health and safety of you and your loved ones in mind. We are committed to streamlining services to ensure accessibility and continuity of care during this difficult time.

DDS will continue to post all communication to families and individuals on the DDS homepage <https://portal.ct.gov/DDS>. Please also consider following us on twitter (@CT_DDS) and facebook (Connecticut Department of Developmental Services) to receive the most up to date communication.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jordan A. Scheff
 Commissioner
 Department of Developmental Services