



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

Operation Center Memo FY2021-09

To: DDS Providers

From: David David, Director of Service Development and Support

Cc: Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner, Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; Scott McWilliams, Chief Fiscal Officer; Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors and Resource Administrators

Date: January 26, 2021

RE: Individualized Home Support Changes

DDS has been working to implement additional options to the Individualized Home Supports (IHS) service as recommended by the Cluster Supports Committee. These options will enable individuals to intermittently share staff with one or two other persons. While the option of individuals being allowed to equally split staff hours billed through WebResDay is currently available, the committee felt that this did not recognize the full amount of support hours provided to individuals they support. In response, the committee recommended that individuals could increase their total number of IHS support hours and enhance their community participation if there was a fair rate to accommodate this option.

Consequently, DDS is announcing that it has developed a **1:2 rate and a 1:3 rate for IHS services to be effective as of July 1, 2021**. Individuals that self-direct their resources already have this option available for their self-hired staff.

There will not be any additional funding given to individuals who choose to utilize these supports. The use of these supports must come from their existing IHS allocation. The shared IHS supports should be done intermittently and based on the needs of the individual. The individual's team must amend the Individual Plan to give its approval and provide instructions as to whether both the 1:2 and 1:3 options are allowable. Providers will need to amend their Provider Profile to add these services in order to provide this service. A new assurance agreement has been developed as part of the amendment process.

Effective July 1, 2021, the IHS rates will be as follows:

IHS- \$ 34.00 per hour

IHS-2 - \$19.52 per hour (two individuals supported by one staff),

IHS-3 - \$14.38 per hour (three individuals supported by one staff)

Over the next few months, DDS will be working with Sandata, the EVV software provider, to develop a process to allow IHS shared supports to be submitted through EVV. In addition, DDS will work with our IT department to develop a tracking report for providers to analyze hours and to allow them to calculate the total IHS funding spent to date to assist them in ensuring that they do not bill for more than the individual's total IHS funding amount.

During this time, providers should submit an Amendment of Services and the attached Assurance Agreement to Debra Lynch in the Operation Center by emailing debra.lynch@ct.gov. Agencies should work with the individual's team to identify on the Individual Plan what types of activities are allowable and an up to percentage of the total time shared IHS supports can be utilized. For example, the team could write, "The team agrees to allow the individual to share IHS supports with one or two other individuals. The individual can share staff when they are going to the grocery store, the restaurant and to attend other community activities. No more than 20% of the individual's total annualized IHS funding amount can be used for shared IHS supports".

DDS will provide additional information on the progress of the EVV changes, the authorization process and the data analysis to be available through WebResDay.