



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

Operations Memo 2024-05

To: Purchase of Services Contracted Private Providers
From: Sean Bannon, Director, Operations Center
CC: Jordan Scheff, Commissioner, Elisa Velardo, Deputy Commissioner, Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff, Nicholas Jerard, CFO, Regional Directors, Private ARDs, Resource Administrators, The Alliance, The ARC CT
Date: November 9, 2023
Subject: FY 2023 Enhanced Benefit Pool Reporting

The Department of Developmental Services is finalizing Enhanced Benefit Pool reporting for FY 2023. Provider Specialists will send the Enhanced Benefit Pool Reporting Templates within the next week to POS Providers who received Enhanced Benefit Pool funding in FY 2023.

Upon receipt of the template, Providers should verify that the Enhanced Benefit Pool total amount received and approved categories are correct. Provider will then enter the amount of funding spent in each of the approved categories and return the completed template to their Provider Specialist no later than November 30, 2023.

Please refer to some Frequently Asked Questions below:

- Q: As the Enhanced Benefit Pool funding is only related to additional employee benefits, what is the baseline time period that my agency should be comparing FY 2023 Benefit Pool expenses to?
A: FY23 Benefits Pool funding should be compared to FY21 funding as a baseline.
Q: Can I use Enhanced Benefit Pool funds on any additional employee benefits, or only on the categories approved for my agency and (amounts approved for each category)?
A: Only Enhanced Benefit Pool categories approved directly by DDS will be considered. If you have communication directly from DDS outside of the original approval emails, DDS will ask that you include the communication with your submission of the forthcoming Enhanced Benefit Pool template.
• (Based on previous DDS guidance, providers can move funding between DDS approved Benefits Pool categories from DDS direct communication with each provider, but not outside of those categories).
Q: Can Enhanced Benefit Pool funding be used for employees working in an ICF?
A: DDS benefits pool funding can be used for employees working in ICFs, based on the below language:

Main Phone: 860-418-6000
Central Office: ddct.co@ct.gov
Ombudsperson: dds.ombudsperson@ct.gov

Website: portal.ct.gov/dds
Public Region: ddct.pub@ct.gov
Southbury Training School: ddct.sts@ct.gov

North Region: ddct.nr@ct.gov
South Region: ddct.sr@ct.gov
West Region: ddct.wr@ct.gov

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Sec. 288 of [Public Act 23-204](#):

*Section 341 of public act 21-2 of the June special session, as amended by section 249 of public act 22-118, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage)*

*(a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall allocate available funds for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, to increase rates to state-contracted providers for the purpose of wage enhancements and related Federal Insurance Contributions Act, workers compensation, and unemployment insurance expenses for employees who provide services to individuals with intellectual disability authorized to receive supports and services through the Department of Developmental Services. [Providers] Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, providers that receive a rate adjustment for the purpose of wage enhancements but do not provide increases in employee salaries as described in this section on or before July 31, 2021, and July 31, 2022, respectively, may be subject to a rate decrease in the same amount as the adjustment by the Commissioner of Developmental Services. In addition, the commissioner shall, within available resources and at the commissioner's discretion, make funds available to support enhanced benefits. Nothing in this section shall require the commissioner to distribute funding in a way that jeopardizes anticipated federal reimbursement.*

*(b) If, after the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management allocates funds pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, there is a balance of available funds that has not been allocated for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the Office of Policy and Management shall disburse such funds as a cost-of-living adjustment to state-contracted providers that deliver services and supports through the Department of Developmental Services.*

*(c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, any state-contracted provider who received funds pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may use such funds for the purpose of wage enhancements and related benefits, as described in subsection (a) of this section, for employees working in intermediate care facilities who provide services to individuals with intellectual disability authorized to receive supports and services through the Department of Social Services.*

Please direct any questions to your Provider Specialist.