



YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO COSTS FOR RESIDENTIAL SUPPORTS

The Department of Disability Services (DDS) is committed to providing high-quality services that enable people with disabilities to lead meaningful and productive lives as vital members of their communities. Through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), DDS provides residential supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Based on the income received by persons with disabilities, DDA determines their contribution of cost to residential services.

Background

Under D.C. law, people receiving residential services and supports are required to contribute to the cost of those services and for items such as rent, food, clothing, medical expenses, furniture, utilities, and other personal items and equipment. The law covers people living in Host Home, Residential Habilitation, and Supported Living settings. Most people contribute to costs from their public benefits, such as Social Security Income (SSI) or Supplement Social Security Income (SSDI). People who are employed and still receive public benefits contribute to the cost of residential services and supports based on their combined income.

On October 1, 2023, the Personal Needs Allowance increased from \$100 to \$150. Beginning January 2025, this amount will be adjusted annually based on the Social Security Cost-Of-Living Adjustment.



How This Impacts You

Your contribution to the costs of your residential services and living expenses is adjusted based on the amount of your public benefits and job income and will never exceed the amount necessary to meet your needs.

- You will keep \$150 of your SSI/SSDI benefits as a Personal Needs Allowance (PNA).
- You will contribute to, which means pay for, costs of residential supports from your SSI, SSDI, or other benefits.
- If your SSI, SSDI, or other benefits are reduced due to a job or other income, you will pay your residential provider a portion of your earnings or other income up to the amount that your SSI, SSDI, or other public benefits were reduced, up to the SSI maximum amount.
- DDS will reduce its payment to your residential provider by the amount your SSI, SSDI, or other benefits were reduced due to a job or other income.

Examples of How It Works

FOR SINGLES: Sally does not work. Her only sources of income are from SSI and SSDI. Sally receives the maximum SSI benefit for one person, which is currently \$943, and receives \$700 in SSDI. The total cost of her residential supports, including her own bedroom in a three- bedroom apartment, is \$1700. DDS collects \$784 from SSI and \$700 from SSDI from Sally's public benefits to help pay for her services, rent, food, clothing, and other items. Sally keeps \$150 from her SSI for her personal use as the PNA. DDS pays the remaining \$216 of Sally's residential supports.

FOR COUPLES: John and Karen are married and live together. They each receive \$707.50 in SSI benefits, or \$1,415 total, which is the maximum SSI benefit for married couples. John contributes \$557.50 to residential supports, and Karen contributes \$557.50 to residential supports, or \$1,115 total. They each keep \$150 for their personal use or \$300 total. DDS pays the remaining cost of John and Karen's residential supports.

FOR PEOPLE RECEIVING PUBLIC BENEFITS AND OTHER INCOME: Max recently got a job earning \$750 per month. His SSI was reduced by \$394, from \$943 to \$549. The total cost of his residential supports is \$1,700. Max pays \$399 from his SSI and keeps

\$150 for personal use. He pays \$394 from his job income to his residential provider and keeps \$356. Here, Max keeps \$506 of his total monthly income of \$1,299 while contributing \$793. DDS pays the remaining \$907 of Max's residential supports.

FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE EMPLOYED AND DO NOT RECEIVE SSI OR SSDI:

Jackie works and earns \$2,000 per month and makes too much to receive public benefits. If she were not working, she would be eligible for \$943 from SSI. The total cost of her residential supports is \$1700. From her paycheck, Jackie contributes \$793, which is the current maximum monthly SSI amount minus \$150, which she keeps for her personal use. Jackie keeps \$1,207 of her total monthly income. DDS pays the remaining \$907 of Jackie's residential supports.



Requests for Recalculation or Reconsideration

Through your Service Coordinator, you may submit a request for recalculation of your monthly contribution amount or reconsideration of your responsibility to contribute to the cost of your residential supports. The request must give the facts and legal reasons for why you do not think you are paying the correct amount. You should provide all documents that support your request. The DDS Deputy Director for DDA will provide a written decision approving or denying your request, with an explanation of his decision, within 30 days. While the request for recalculation of costs or reconsideration is being reviewed, you are expected to maintain current contributions.



Complaints

You may use the DDA Formal Complaint System to file a complaint about your contribution amount, about how DDA or your residential provider apply the contribution to cost of care rules to you, or about the DDS Deputy Director for DDA's written decision to your request for recalculation or reconsideration.

You may file the complaint with your residential provider or with the DDS Complaint Coordinator by calling (202) 730-1623 or emailing dds.complaints@dc.gov.



Consequences for Nonpayment

Contributing to the cost of residential supports is required under D.C. law. If a person refuses to pay, the residential provider must interview the person to find out why, then may reduce or stop payment for certain living expenses such as clothing, furniture, or personal devices, as long as there is no risk to the person's health or safety. Before taking any action as a consequence for non-payment, the provider must notify the person of the consequence 30 days in advance.

If a person continues to refuse to contribute to the cost of their residential supports, an Individual Service Plan (ISP) meeting will be held with the person, their supported decision-making representative (if desired), their service coordinator and residential provider to discuss options for repayment or relocation. The residential provider may choose to discharge the person and must notify the person of the discharge 30 days in advance.

Ultimately, if after 90 days, or three months, a person continues to refuse to contribute to the cost of their residential supports, DDS has the right to terminate the person's residential supports. Written notice of the intent to stop services will be given 30 days in advance of terminating the residential supports.

Additional Resources

The following organizations may be able to help people make a request for recalculation or reconsideration.

DDS Office of Rights and Advocacy

(202) 730-1700

University Legal Services

(202) 547- 4747

Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities

(202) 448-1450