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Department on  
Disability Services

# Community and Provider Forum

August 20, 2021

5<sup>th</sup> DC COVID-19 Appendix K

# Remote Service Delivery

Allows for the delivery of the following services via electronic methods if it meets the individual's level of need, ensures health and safety, and is approved by the individual, the individual's support team, and the individual's clinician, where applicable:

- Physical Therapy (ongoing);
- Occupational Therapy (ongoing);
- Speech Language and Hearing (ongoing);
- Creative Art Therapies;
- Day Habilitation;
- Individualized Day Supports; and
- Employment Readiness.

# Remote Service Delivery Limitations

- An individual's ability to receive day services remotely when the services are not available on-site or in the community, ensures community integration by facilitating interaction with persons other than those physically present in the individual's home setting.
- Remote delivery of day services is limited to individuals whose service needs cannot be met on-site in the community due to a lack of availability caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- At such time that on-site delivery of the services in the community becomes available, but no later than six months following the conclusion of the PHE, individuals will not be able to continue to receive the services remotely.

# Modify Staffing Ratios

Staffing ratios for Day Habilitation and Individualized Day Supports when provided remotely may be modified as follows:

- Temporarily, staffing ratios may increase not to exceed three (1:3) people supported at a time by a single staff person for IDS.
- Temporarily, staffing ratios may increase not to exceed six (1:6) people supported at a time by a single staff person for Day Habilitation.
- Temporarily, staffing ratios may increase not to exceed six (1:6) people supported at a time by a single staff person for Day Habilitation (small group).

# Exceed Service Limitations



- Modifies the service limitations for Individualized Day Supports to exceed the waiver limit of five (5) days per week of service delivery when provided remotely.
- Allows for up to seven (7) days per week of Individualized Day Supports when provided remotely.
- Not to exceed six (6) hours per day or thirty (30) hours total per week.



# Expand Settings

- Expands settings where Day Habilitation, Individualized Day Supports, and Employment Readiness services may be provided.

## **Permissible alternate settings for the above services include:**

- Hotels;
- Shelters;
- Family and friends' homes;
- Churches; or
- Other settings approved by the District.

## **Permissible alternate settings may also include the participant's residential setting, which is defined as:**

- The person's private (natural) home;
- A provider owned or controlled certified residential setting; or
- Other residential emergency setting, such as a hotel.

- The requirement to provide services in the community is suspended for Individualized Day Supports when being provided remotely.

# Companion Services

- Allows payment for Companion Services rendered by family caregivers or legally responsible individuals.
- Companion services may be provided concurrently with the following day support services being provided remotely:
  - Supported Employment,
  - Day Habilitation,
  - Employment Readiness,
  - and Individualized Day Support services.
- If a person receiving day support services remotely has a companion services provider present in the home during remote delivery of the day support services, the companion assists and supports the person in remotely accessing the day services that are not currently offering in-person services due to the ongoing COVID-19 PHE and provides non-medical assistance and supervision with ADLs and IADLs to support the person's goals and needs, as identified in the person's ISP.

# One-time Payments

- Makes available a one-time supplemental payment to eligible waiver providers employing DSPs available to eligible providers of the following waiver services:
  - Residential Habilitation (**IDD waiver only**)
  - Supported Living Daily with or without Transportation (**IDD waiver only**)
  - Companion Services (**IDD and IFS waivers**)

Additional reporting and rate-related criteria for this supplemental payment will be published in a transmittal, available on the DHCF website at <https://dhcf.dc.gov>.

- Authorizes a one-time payment of \$250 per person supported, per provider for assistance with the purchase of PPE.
  - The funds are paid to providers per year on a cost reimbursable basis.



# Training Requirements

- Modifies training requirements for direct support professionals (DSPs) and modifies Assistive Technology provider certification requirements;
  - Temporarily allow provider agencies to provide online training such as CPR and First Aid in lieu of in-person training. Completion of accredited online CPR and First Aid trainings is considered sufficient to satisfy the annual certification requirement for DSPs.

# Provider Qualifications



- Temporarily modifies Assistive Technology provider certification requirements to allow Certified Enabling Technologies Specialist and Accredited Technology First organizations to certify these providers.



# Reminders

- **Effective Date:** Retroactively to March 11, 2020.
- **Anticipated End Date:** Six (6) months after the conclusion of the public health emergency.

# Resources

- <https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/disaster-response-toolkit/home-community-based-services-public-health-emergencies/emergency-preparedness-and-response-for-home-and-community-based-hcbs-1915c-waivers/index.html>
- [https://dds.dc.gov/publications/ComplianceGuides/Publications\\_ComplianceGuide\\_CH.pdf?after\[value\]=&before\[value\]=&keys=&type=All&sort\\_by=field\\_date\\_value&sort\\_order=DESC&after%255Bvalue%255D=&before%255Bvalue%255D=](https://dds.dc.gov/publications/ComplianceGuides/Publications_ComplianceGuide_CH.pdf?after[value]=&before[value]=&keys=&type=All&sort_by=field_date_value&sort_order=DESC&after%255Bvalue%255D=&before%255Bvalue%255D=)
- <https://dds.dc.gov/publication/dds-appendix-k-transmittal>