The Department on Disability Services (DDS), Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) releases the Contribution to Costs of DDA Residential Supports Policy, 2021-DDA-POL01, and Procedure, 2021-DDA-PR01, effective October 1, 2021. These apply to DDA Residential Providers and to people who receive DDA residential supports, including Host Home, Residential Habilitation or Supported Living.

Presently, many people with Social Security income contribute monthly to the costs of their residential supports. This policy and procedure apply the same requirement to people receiving residential supports regardless of the source(s) of their income, as required by District of Columbia law and regulations. See “Contribution to Costs of Supports Fund Amendment Act of 2016,” D.C. Code §7-761.05. On November 30, 2018, DDS issued a new Chapter 131 in the D.C. Municipal Regulations, entitled, “Contribution to Costs of DDA Residential Supports.” Together, this policy and procedure specify how DDA will determine whether, what amount and how a person who receives DDA residential supports is required to make required contributions to the costs of residential supports.

DDS incentivizes employment for people who work and receive residential supports: they are required to contribute up to the current Supplemental Security Income (SSI) maximum or to contribute the difference between the amount their public benefits were reduced because of their employment income. DDS lowers the required contribution as a person approaches retirement age or retires.
Please read the policy documents in detail. Here are some highlights:

- People who receive or request DDA residential supports are required to apply for and maintain eligibility for all public benefits for which they may be eligible, and provide the benefit awards letters, including updates on changes to that information, to their Service Coordinator.

- A person’s Service Coordinator will be responsible for using that information to calculate a person’s required contribution to costs of residential supports.

- A person entering DDA residential supports on or after October 1, 2021 will contribute to the costs of those supports in the first month following the effective date of the Individual Support Plan (ISP).

- A person receiving DDA residential supports prior to October 1, 2021 will begin contributing to the costs of residential supports approximately six months after their next annual ISP meeting or six-month review meeting, during which the contribution amount will be calculated. The person will initially contribute at a reduced rate that will be increased on an annual basis, starting at $100 per month in the first year.

- Residential providers are required to collect the contribution to costs of residential amounts from people to whom they provide residential services.

- A person may request a Recalculation of the amount or Reconsideration of DDA’s determination that the person has a responsibility to pay contribution to costs of residential supports. Additionally, a person may file a complaint in the DDA Formal Complaint System to contest DDA or the provider’s application of the Contribution to Costs of Residential Supports Policy or Procedure to the person.

- If a person fails to provide the necessary financial documentation or fails to pay the required contribution, then DDS or the provider may exercise additional options up to discontinuation of residential supports.

DDS is grateful for feedback from Project ACTION!, the Home and Community-Based Services Policy Advisory Group, Disability Rights D.C. at University Legal Services, D.C. Quality Trust for

For questions about the Contribution to Costs of Residential Supports Policy and Procedure please contact Winslow Woodland, DDA Deputy Director, at winslow.woodland@dc.gov or (202) 730-1618.