



March 13, 2020

Dear DDA Provider:

The Department on Disability Services (DDS), Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), is looking at specific ways to ensure that the people we support are not put at risk through large congregate settings or unnecessary public outings and are able to benefit from social distancing strategies.

On March 11, 2020, in order to provide additional coordination for the District's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), Mayor Muriel Bowser declared both a state of emergency and a public health emergency. Additionally, Mayor Bowser has adjusted the District of Columbia Government's operating status beginning Monday, March 16, through Tuesday, March 31, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Accordingly, beginning March 16, 2020, and continuing through April 15, 2020, or until the public health emergency is lifted or service providers receive notification from DDA, please be advised as follows:

- All persons living in residential habilitation and supported living settings who are not currently authorized for companion services may have group companion services provided by their residential provider, which must be an approved companion services provider;
- All persons living in their natural home receiving 8 hours of in-home support may receive up to 16 hours authorized to replace day services; and
- Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) providers should determine whether it would be in the best interest of people in their facility to provide active treatment at their home, rather than in an outside day program, either facility- or community-based.
- Service Coordination staff have been instructed to ensure all necessary amendments to ISPs for waiver services are current with input from the person's respective IDT teams with an estimated completion date of March 20, 2020. The changes to services for people in ICFs will not require an ISP amendment. The provider will need to note within the person's record that day program and community activities have been suspended due to the Mayor's declaration of a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency. If there are IPPs that cannot be implemented within the ICF, the QIDP can revise the IPP to adjust to the home setting.
- Each decision should be individualized and include input from the person and his or her circle of support/interdisciplinary team.

We know that this is a rapidly evolving situation here in DC and around the world. Our plan is to share new information with you frequently so that you have all the information you need to protect yourself, your family, and our neighbors. If you have any questions about implementation, please consult with Deputy Director for the Developmental Disabilities Administration at (202) 730-1618 or (202) 498-9529. For the latest information on COVID-19, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Reese

Andrew Reese
Director