



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES

DDS TRANSMITTAL# 19-21

TO: All Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Residential and Day Services Providers

FROM: Crystal Thomas, Program Manager, State Office of Policy, Planning and Innovation

DATE: December 19, 2019

RE: Ensuring Safety for People with Behavioral Challenges in Individualized Day Settings

The Department on Disability Services (DDS) is issuing this transmittal to all Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) residential and day services providers to highlight a clear safety need specifically related to people who receive Individualized Day Services (IDS) through DDA providers.

DDS maintains, and providers must comply with, DDA's [Most Integrated Community-Based Setting Policy](#), 2015-DDA-POL001, so that people supported by DDA and served by providers in the DDA provider network are able to live, work and participate in our community. Our goal is for every person DDA supports to live a good life in the least restrictive setting, individualized to their abilities and their needs as outlined in their Individual Support Plan (ISP).

Please note that it is the responsibility of IDS providers to ensure that IDS settings, including the selection of initial meeting places, are places where the person can safely participate in IDS services. When there may be triggers in the IDS setting that cause challenging behaviors to occur, providers must implement specific strategies, including proactive strategies, to minimize the risk of harm to the person. In specific cases, this may require excluding locations where the triggers have occurred or where specific information about the person's recent behaviors indicates trigger are likely.

For IDS participants with a Behavior Support Plan (BSP), the strategies should be incorporated into the BSP.

If you have questions, please contact: Dr. Yolanda Van Horn, DDS Clinical Psychologist, at (202) 527-5541 or yolanda.vanhorn@dc.gov; or Tiffani Johnson, Rights and Advocacy Specialist, (202) 730-1802 or tiffani.johnson@dc.gov.