



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Developmental Disabilities Administration
PO Box 45310, Olympia, WA 98504-5310

April 06, 2020

TO: Children's Residential Services Administrators

RE: Temporary rate exceptions related to COVID-19 pandemic

Description of Request:

The federal government recently increased Federal Match Assistance Percentages (FMAP) for reimbursement for Washington State to be applied towards DDA's rates for contracted children's residential providers which includes Licensed Staffed Residential (LSR) and Group Care Facilities for medically fragile children.

Licensed Staffed Residential Providers:

An Exception to DDA Policy 6.22, is being granted for all DDA Licensed Staffed Residential providers authorized to provide Voluntary Placement Services (VPS). This exception to DDA Policy 6.22 allows Licensed Staffed Residential (LSR) providers to use the temporary additional funds provided in accordance with the Administrative and Non-Staff Cost Center associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary rate increase will be provided as an add-on to your total daily rate.

The intent of the temporary add-on funds is to address staffing needs, additional supplies, and other administrative/non-staff costs that the agency may incur related to the emergency created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These additional funds should eliminate the need to request any Staff Add-On or Cost of Care Adjustments (COCA's) related to COVID-19 expenditures. Staff Add-On's and COCA's that are not related to COVID-19 may be requested during this period.

Licensed Group Care Facility Providers:

DDA Group Care Facilities supporting medically complex children will also receive a temporary rate add-on based upon DDA contract 1721-XP under Special Terms and Conditions outlined in Exhibit A. The intent of the add-on funds is to address staffing needs, additional supplies, and other administrative/non-staff costs that the agency may incur related to the emergency created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

LSR and Group Care providers do not need to do anything special or extra to receive the temporary rate add-on as it will be added to each client's total rate on your exhibit. Providers do not need to request individual rate exceptions for these COVID-19 policy changes.

At this time we do not know the end date for the temporary add-on. This increase in federal funding is provided for each calendar quarter through the end of this pandemic as determined by the federal government. The enhanced FMAP is available until the last day of the calendar quarter in which the emergency is declared. Currently we intend to continue the add-on until that date. When we know the actual date the enhanced FMAP will end, we will notify your agency in writing. At a minimum, the rate add-on will continue through June 2020.

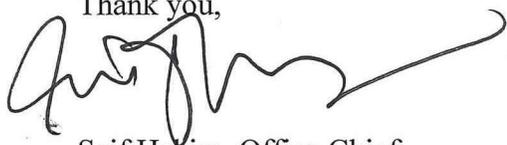
Since the enhanced FMAP is allowed starting the first of the year, the rate increase from April to June will be a higher amount since we are capturing a six month increase over the current three month quarter. If the enhanced FMAP continues for the calendar quarter starting July 01, the increase to your daily rate will be reduced to reflect the increase FMAP that is received for that quarter.

These temporary add-on funds will be added into your contract with an effective date of April 1st, 2020. A rate add-on equal to 22% of the Total Daily/Monthly Rate for each client will be added to your contract. The agency is responsible to maintain records related to the rate add-on.

DDA staff are working diligently to add the funds into the contract. We are anticipating the change reflected in your exhibit and available to claim by April 20th, with an effective date of April 1st. Please do not submit reimbursement requests to DDA for expenses or purchases paid for prior to April 1, 2020. Costs related to the pandemic should be reimbursed with the FMAP funds. However, the regional VPS resource managers are available to contact if you have questions.

I appreciate your continued partnership and commitment to bring quality services for people with disabilities. Please do not hesitate to connect with Nichole Jensen if you have questions. Nichole can be reached at JenseNF@dshs.wa.gov or 360.791.0260.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saif Hakim', with a long, sweeping underline.

Saif Hakim, Office Chief

cc: Children's Residential Unit HQ
Regional Administrators
VPS Coordinators
Office of Rates Management