

Community Residential Companion Home Provider Meeting Follow Up FAQs

1. If I have outstanding 2020 and 2021 continuing education credits that I need to complete, is there an online option available?

Yes. DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration is partnering with Open Future Learning to offer free, online continuing education credits for companion home providers.

This option became available to providers in August and will continue through the month of December. A registration flyer will be sent via GovDelivery when November and December options become available.

2. What is GovDelivery and how do I sign up for it?

GovDelivery is an email subscription service that provides updates that are accessible, relevant, and important from various government agencies including DDA. Companion home providers receive DDA-related messages and updates, including communication about training opportunities. There may be other state GovDelivery lists you may be interested in as well that you can sign up for. Below are links to sign up for GovDelivery and a GovDelivery tutorial.

[Sign up for GovDelivery](#)

[GovDelivery Tutorial](#)

3. Can a client live in a companion home and access food benefits for themselves?

Clients are not eligible for food assistance as head of household in a separate assistance unit while living in a companion home per [WAC 388-408-0035](#) "Who is in my assistance unit for basic food?"

4. How does DDA determine a companion home provider's rate?

[WAC 388-829C-131](#) explains how a companion homes daily rate is calculated currently. Question number 7 "What are the proposed changes to WAC 388-829C-131?" will explain the proposed changes to the current WAC.

1. Data is gathered from answers in the client's person-centered service plan and grouped into Support Assessment Scales.

The following support assessment scales are used for the rate:

- Activities of daily living, behavior, interpersonal support, medical, mobility and protective supervision
2. Support assessment scales are assigned an acuity level of none, low medium or high
 3. A value of 0-3 is assigned to the acuity levels 0- being none and 3 being high.
 4. The total of the values assigned to the support assessment scales have a multiplier applied to them to derive a daily rate. The multiplier changes based on legislative appropriations.

Our current multiplier is 14.5.

Support Assessment Scales	Acuity Levels			
	None	Low	Medium	High
Activities of daily living	0	1	2	3
Behavior	0	1	2	3
Interpersonal support	0	1	2	3
Medical	0	1	2	3
Mobility	0	1	2	3
Protective supervision	0	1	2	3

5. DDA assigns a behavior score of 4 if the client has a:
 - (a) Behavior score of three on the support assessment scale;
 - (b) Challenging behavior documented on form DSHS 10-234; and
 - (c) Current positive behavior support plan

Information on how rates are established can also be found in [DDA policy 4.12](#)

5. Where can more information be found on how the protective supervision acuity levels are determined?

[WAC 388-828-5040](#), [WAC 388-828-5060](#), and [388-828-5100](#) include questions that are part of the protective supervision acuity scale and related scoring.

6. Is the algorithm specific to companion home?

The algorithm that assigns acuity levels to the support assessment scales is not specific to companion home. Assigned values of 0-3 to the acuity levels with 0- being “none” and 3 being “high” is specific to the way a companion home daily rate is derived.

7. What are the proposed changes to WAC 388-829C-131?

Amendments to WAC 388-829C-131 are intended to:

- Remove the companion home daily rate multiplier from WAC because it changes too frequently for the rule to stay accurate. Instead, DDA will publish the rates on the [Office of Rates Management](#) website specifically in the [Rates Sheet](#).
This is a new way of calculating legislatively mandated increases to the daily rate and does not change the amount of the increase for the companion home provider.
- Remove the requirement to have challenging behaviors documented on form DSHS 10-234.
- Remove the requirement to review the rate annually. The rate will be reviewed only when the sum of support acuity levels change or when legislatively mandated appropriations change.
- Draft a new WAC. WAC 388-829C-135 establishes requirements for behavior support plans for clients receiving services from a companion home provider.

8. What are the community options for respite available for companion homes?

[WAC 388-829C-230](#) “What is respite?” provides a list of community settings where respite can be provided. Contact your case manager to add a respite provider to the person-centered service plan.

9. Where can I find information on how a companion home providers respite is calculated?

Both [WAC 388-829C-232](#) “How does DDA determine a companion home client’s annual respite allocation?” and [WAC 388-828-6012](#) “How does DDD determine the number of respite hours you may receive annually if you are receiving companion home services?” describe the calculation for annual respite hours that are available for companion home providers.

WAC 388-829C-232 states: DDA determines a companion home clients annual respite allocation by adding the client’s *companion home services support score* under [WAC 388-828-6010](#) to their *adjusted companion home services support score* under [WAC 388-828-6011](#).

A companion home services support score is derived from the unadjusted respite assessment level. The unadjusted respite assessment level is based on protection supervision level and behavior acuity level as described in [WAC 388-828-5990](#). Once the unadjusted respite assessment level is known, [WAC 388-828-6010](#) "How does DDA determine your companion home services support score per chapter 388-829C WAC?" has a chart that converts the unadjusted Respite Assessment Level into the companion home services support score. This number is then added to the adjusted companion home services support score found in [WAC 388-828-6011](#) "How does DDD Determine the number to use in the adjustment of your companion home services support score?" Additional WACs about respite include:
[WAC 388-829C-233](#) May the client or companion home provider request additional respite hours?
[WAC 388-829C-234](#) Will DDA reduce the companion home daily rate if additional respite hours are approved?

10. Are administrative costs, health insurance costs, retirement costs and other costs of running a business considered in the companion home provider's rate?

Companion home daily rates are intended to cover all costs of running a business as a sole proprietor.