

Public Notice

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program Renewal

The current approved Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP), which includes the Community Care Services Program (CCSP) and the Service Options Using Resources for Community Environments (SOURCE) Program, expires November 8, 2022, and must be renewed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). DCH hereby notifies the public that it intends to request a five-year renewal of the program, effective November 9, 2022.

DCH will provide the public the opportunity to review and submit input on the EDWP renewal application. This notice provides details about the waiver renewal application and serves to open the 30-day public comment period, which closes on Friday, July 1, 2022.

The Department proposes the following changes in the EDWP Renewal:

- Add Assistive Technology as a new service
- Modify Personal Support Services to allow a relative to deliver the service
- Allow five services with no utilization to expire
 - Transition Coordination (Pre-discharge)
 - Transition Coordination (Month 1-6)
 - Transition Coordination (Month 7-12)
 - Transition Services and Supports
 - Transition Community Integration Services
- Permanently reset rates to reflect a 10 percent increase

Add a New Service:

Assistive Technology

DCH proposes to add Assistive Technology as a new service to the EDWP. Assistive technology consists of any technology, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities by providing an alternative method to perform a task.

Modify a Service:

Personal Support Services

During the Public Health Emergency, Georgia experienced significant challenges in retaining a stable workforce and recruiting direct support professionals and home health workers. Therefore, DCH proposes to allow relatives to deliver Personal Support Services, Personal Support Extended, and Consumer-Directed Personal Support Services. Relatives, as defined in

current policy, may be hired by Private Homecare Providers through the traditional service model or comply with criteria set forth in the Consumer Directed model.

Allow to Expire:

The five transition services in the current approved waiver were added anticipating the sunset of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. Given the continued authorization and availability of MFP funds along with zero utilization of the five services, DCH proposes to not renew these services in the waiver. The services may be added via waiver amendment when notice of the end of MFP is certain.

Rate Increases:

In the 2021 Georgia General Assembly, the EDWP allocation was increased to reflect a 10 percent across the board rate increase for all services. The rate increase has been implemented temporarily through an Appendix K application approved by CMS retroactive to 7/1/2021. The increase was authorized by the Georgia General Assembly based on the opportunity provided through the American Rescue Plan Act to fund the rate increases, however the intent of the legislators is to continue the award beyond the public health emergency to reset rates permanently. The increase has been applied as legislated to this renewal application to reflect the intent to reset rates permanently in this waiver.

Service	Previous Rate	Current Rate (Effective July 1, 2021)
Adult Day Health Level I Full Day	\$55.62	\$61.18
Adult day Health Level I Partial Day	\$33.37	\$36.71
Adult Day Health; Physical Therapy	\$44.15/visit	\$48.57/visit
Adult Day Health; Speech Therapy	\$44.15/visit	\$48.57/visit
Adult Day Health; Occupational Therapy	\$44.15/visit	\$48.57/visit
Adult Day Health Level II Full Day	\$69.53/day	\$76.48/day
Adult Day Health Level II Partial Day	\$41.73/day	\$45.90/day
Alternative Living Services Group Model	\$50.00/day	\$55.00/day
Alternative Living Services Family Model	\$50.00/day	\$55.00/day
Structured Family Caregiver	\$90.20/day	\$99.22/day

Out of Home Respite (12 hours)	\$42.57/night	\$46.83/night
Out of Home Respite (hourly)	\$3.00 /15- minute unit	\$3.30/15-minute unit
Personal Support Service	\$5.07 /15-minute unit	\$5.58/15-minute unit
Extended Personal Support	\$4.51 /15-minute unit	\$4.96/15-minute unit
Fiscal Intermediary	\$80.00/month	\$88.00/month
Emergency Response Monitoring (Monthly)	\$36.69/month	\$40.36/month
Emergency Response Monitoring (Weekly)	\$9.17/week	\$10.09/week
Emergency Response Installment	Up to \$110.10/one installment	\$121.11/one installment
Home Delivered Meals	\$6.74/meal	\$7.41/meal
Skilled Nursing Services RN	\$65.00/visit	\$71.50/visit
Skilled Nursing Services LPN	\$50.00/visit	\$55.00/visit
Care Coordination Services	\$175/month	\$192.50/month
Enhanced Care Coordination Services	\$192.27/month	\$211.50/month

Estimated Annual Expenditures

Waiver Year	Estimated State Share	Estimated Federal Share	Estimated Total Expenditure
Year 1	\$303,219,743	\$589,127,940	\$892,347,682
Year 2	\$330,246,841	\$641,639,093	\$971,885,933
Year 3	\$359,688,664	\$698,841,837	\$1,058,530,501
Year 4	\$391,758,736	\$761,151,023	\$1,152,909,758
Year 5	\$426,718,552	\$829,074,714	\$1,255,793,266
Total	\$1,811,632,536	\$3,519,834,607	\$5,331,467,140

Locations to Access Copies of Public Notice and Waiver Renewal

This public notice and the waiver renewal application are available on the Department's website, at <https://dch.georgia.gov/meetings-notice/public-notice>. This public notice and the waiver renewal application are also available for review at each county Division of Family and

Children Services office. A comprehensive statewide list of locations of all Division of Family and Children Services offices can be found at <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/locations>.

Public Hearings and Public Input Procedure

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **June 7, 2022 at 10:30 a.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

June 7, 2022 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89173713992?pwd=bmdBREltbUEvV1M3ekl0a3FuZkJCUT09>

Meeting ID: 891 7371 3992

Passcode: Open

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89173713992# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,89173713992# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 891 7371 3992

Individuals wishing to provide written comments on or before **July 1, 2022**, may submit comments through an online webform located at: <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/all-programs/waiver-programs> or to Danisha Williams c/o the Board of Community Health at the following address, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. Comment letters must be postmarked by **July 1, 2022**, to be accepted.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov. Public comments and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **July 2022** Board meeting. The Board will vote on

any proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 2nd DAY OF JUNE 2022
Caylee Noggle, Commissioner