

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.

New Options Waiver Program Renewal

The current approved New Options Waiver (NOW) 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 NOW 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 NOW Renewal:

- Modify eligibility minimum age
- Add Assistive Technology as a new service
- Modify the following services to reflect telehealth service delivery
 - Adult Speech and Language
 - Adult Physical Therapy
 - Adult Occupational Therapy
 - Nutrition Services
 - Interpreter Services
 - Behavior Support Services
 - Supported Employment
- Allow two services with low utilization to expire
 - Community Guide
 - Natural Support Training
- Remove participant direction (self-direction) as a service model
 - Behavior Support Services
 - Supported Employment
- Permanently reset rates to reflect a 7 percent increase

Modify eligibility minimum age:

IQ testing in very young children is not predictable of future cognitive abilities. This is especially true for infants, as their language skills cannot be assessed. Additionally, young children may benefit significantly from early interventions services. It is best to determine eligibility for children after they have passed through the early developmental phase and had the opportunity to benefit from early intervention services. This change does not impact anyone currently on the waiver or the planning list.

Add a New Service:

Assistive Technology

DCH proposes to add Assistive Technology as a new service to the NOW. 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:

DCH proposes allowing the following services to be provided via telehealth. Telehealth will promote member choice in treatment modality and increase availability of state-wide providers. Telehealth may only be used when clinically indicated and when preferred by the member.

- Adult Speech and Language
- Adult Physical Therapy
- Adult Occupational Therapy
- Nutrition Services
- Interpreter Services
- Behavior Support Services
- Supported Employment

Allow to Expire:

Community Guide Services

DCH proposes to allow this service to expire due to low utilization. Community Guide Services assist waiver members in managing self-directed services and responsibilities. Support Coordination and Fiscal Support Services agencies will provide the functions of Community Guide.

Natural Support Training (NST)

DCH proposes to allow this service to expire because of low utilization. Support Coordination and fiscal intermediary roles encompass much of what is meant by the current service definition of NST and will continue to assist individuals along with researching and providing alternative resources in the community to assist with these needs

Remove Participant Direction as a Service:

Behavior Support Services

DCH proposes to remove the participant direction service delivery option for Behavior Support Services. Behavior Support Service requires specific professional licensure and/or certification for provider enrollment. In accordance with the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) which requires the Medicaid agency to assure credentialing and verification of provider licensing. This service will be delivered by providers with validation as required.

Supported Employment Services

DCH proposes to remove the participant direction service delivery option for this service. Supported Employment Service providers require specialized training in employment options and the ability to customize an employment setting to meet waiver members' specific needs. Employment Services will be offered a choice of qualified Medicaid enrolled providers and continue authorized services.

Rate Increases:

In the 2022 Georgia General Assembly, the NOW allocation in the Amended Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal

Year 2023 was increased to reflect a total seven (7) percent across the board rate increase for all services. The increase has been applied as legislated to this renewal application across all five (5) waiver years.

Service Name	Previous Rate	Renewal Rate
Adult Dental Services	\$500.00	\$535.00
Adult Occupational Therapy Evaluation - High Complexity	\$67.21	\$71.91
Adult Occupational Therapy Evaluation - Low Complexity	\$67.21	\$71.91
Adult Occupational Therapy Evaluation - Moderate Complexity	\$67.21	\$71.91
Adult Occupational Therapy Re-Evaluation	\$44.40	\$47.51
Adult Occupational Therapy Sensory Integrative Techniques	\$24.46	\$26.17
Adult Occupational Therapy Services	\$28.23	\$30.21
Adult Orthotic and Prosthetic Fitting and Training	\$27.38	\$29.30
Adult Physical Therapy Evaluation - High Complexity	\$69.34	\$74.19
Adult Physical Therapy Evaluation - Low Complexity	\$69.34	\$74.19
Adult Physical Therapy Evaluation - Moderate Complexity	\$69.34	\$74.19
Adult Physical Therapy Re-Evaluation	\$47.14	\$50.44
Adult Physical Therapy Therapeutic Procedure	\$25.91	\$27.72
Adult Speech and Language Evaluation	\$163.81	\$175.28
Adult Speech and Language Therapy	\$62.53	\$66.91
Adult Speech Generating Device Evaluation	\$109.28	\$116.93
Adult Speech-Generating Device Therapy	\$54.75	\$58.58
Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation	\$117.54	\$125.77
Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy	\$44.66	\$47.79
Assistive Technology	\$1,194.96	\$1,278.61
Behavioral Supports Services - Level 1	\$18.75	\$20.06
Behavioral Supports Services - Level 2	\$23.56	\$25.25
Community Access Group	\$3.10	\$3.32
Community Access Individual	\$7.41	\$7.93
Community Living Support - Basic	\$6.35	\$6.79
Community Living Support - Basic - 2 Person	\$3.49	\$3.73
Community Living Support - Basic - 3 Person	\$2.54	\$2.72
Community Living Support - Extended Services	\$5.74	\$6.14
Community Living Support - Extended Services - 2 Person	\$3.16	\$3.38
Community Living Support - Extended Services - 3 Person	\$2.30	\$2.46
Community Living Support - Personal Assistance Retainer	\$5.74	\$6.14
Environmental Accessibility Adaptation	\$10,400.00	\$11,128.00
Financial Support Services	\$75.00	\$80.25
Individual Directed Goods and Services	\$1,500.00	\$1,605.00
Intensive Support Coordination	\$461.00	\$493.27
Interpreter Services	\$19.38	\$20.74
Neuro-Muscular Re-Education	\$27.07	\$28.96
Nursing LPN	\$8.75	\$9.36
Nursing RN	\$10.00	\$10.70

Orthotic and Prosthetic Check Out	\$23.39	\$25.03
Prevocational Services	\$3.10	\$3.32
Prosthetic Training	\$24.98	\$26.73
Respite Services (In Home) - 1 Member	\$4.83	\$5.17
Respite Services (In Home) - 2 Members	\$2.66	\$2.85
Respite Services (In Home) - 3 Members	\$1.93	\$2.07
Respite Services (Out of Home)	\$4.83	\$5.17
Respite Services Overnight - Category 1	\$153.61	\$164.36
Respite Services Overnight - Category 2	\$209.51	\$224.18
Specialized Medical Equipment	\$5,200.00	\$5,564.00
Specialized Medical Supplies	\$3,800.00	\$4,066.00
Support Coordination	\$152.88	\$163.58
Supported Employment Group	\$2.02	\$2.16
Supported Employment Individual	\$8.15	\$8.72
Transition Community Integration Services	\$2,500.00	\$2,675.00
Transition Services and Supports	\$20,000.00	\$21,400.00
Transportation	\$2,797.00	\$2,992.79
Vehicle Adaptation Services	\$6,240.00	\$6,676.80

Estimated Annual Expenditures

Waiver Year	Estimated State Share	Estimated Federal Share	Estimated Total Expenditure
Year 1	\$21,962,711	\$42,671,517	\$64,634,227
Year 2	\$22,915,393	\$44,522,492	\$67,437,884
Year 3	\$23,906,713	\$46,448,534	\$70,355,247
Year 4	\$24,943,622	\$48,463,153	\$73,406,774
Year 5	\$26,030,910	\$50,575,652	\$76,606,562
Total	\$119,759,349	\$232,681,348	\$352,440,697

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-notices/public-notices>. 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 6, 2022 at 12:00 p.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 6, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87834294174?pwd=Q2hHbnpFUmpsEZpNHVUTy95cFFZZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 3429 4174

Passcode: Open

One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,87834294174# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 878 3429 4174

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