



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Elisa Velardo  
Deputy Commissioner

To: DDS Qualified Providers

From: Jordan A. Scheff, DDS Commissioner

CC: Elisa Velardo, Deputy Commissioner; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; Krista Ostaszewski, Health Management Administrator; Sean Bannon, Operations Center Director; Regional Directors; Assistant Regional Directors; Regional Resource Administrators

Date: July 14, 2023

RE: **HCBS ARPA & Appendix K Approval**

Dear Providers,

In March, DDS issued a [memo](#) on the work being done specific to the **DDS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) ARPA plan** and outlined proposed revisions under review through the Appendix K process. We are excited to announce that as of July 3, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved our revised ARPA **Appendix K** amendments including additional financial incentives connected to the Supporting Transformation to Empower People (STEP) initiative! This memo is to provide a brief summary of the revised provisions recently approved.

1. Incentive-based outcome payments to any qualified residential or day provider covered under the waivers that submits a transition plan that is approved by DDS.
2. Incentive-based outcome payments for any qualified residential or day provider covered under the waivers that transitions a waiver participant from a congregate residential setting toward a more integrated community-based setting or a waiver participant from a congregate day setting toward a more community-based employment setting, as identified in the approved transition plan.
3. Incentive-based outcome payments to any qualified residential or day provider covered under the waivers that completes certain objectives, as part of the approved transition plan to the satisfaction of the DDS.
  - o Restructuring of a residential setting to support new individuals with specialized or complex medical, behavioral, or clinical needs who need residential support (as defined by our residential wait list, an unmet residential need or the residential move better aligns to meet the needs of the individual).

- Restructuring a day program to provide new supports that now focus on employment-based services.
  - Restructuring a day program to support new individuals with specialized or complex medical needs who need a day support (as defined as an unmet day need).
  - Ending a subminimum wage arrangement for individuals supported in the program to minimum wage arrangement.
4. An incentive payment for any DDS qualified provider that completes the National Core Indicator IDD State of the Workforce Survey. The deadline for submitting the survey for this year is July 31, 2023. An email with the link was resent to all qualified providers on July 13, 2023 from Verity Analytics.
  5. An incentive payment for DDS qualified providers that meet the articulated criteria training expectations consistent with professional standards from accepted accreditation or certification entities such as the Connecticut Association of People Supporting Employment First (CTAPSE), Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE), or other similarly recognized organizations.
  6. An incentive payment for any DDS qualified providers that meet the articulated criteria for training expectations consistent with Technology First SHIFT LLC, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Assistive Technology professional or other similarly recognized organizations that focus on utilization of Assistive Technology.
  7. Temporary increases for specific employment and residential waiver service authorizations covered under the waivers in accordance with the approved plan.

All provisions are retroactive to February 2023 and will apply to all previously approved STEP Plans and transitions.

Additional information and details on how qualified providers can access each provision outlined above will be communicated shortly. The transformative work that is underway through STEP continues to focus on moving toward models that focus on independence, choice and community integration.

You can find updated versions of the STEP Guide and the STEP Budget on the [DDS Website Provider Gateway](#) that reflect these changes. As a reminder, you are invited to join open Technical Assistance office hours for more guidance on developing your transition plans on Fridays from 10:00 to 11:00 am. [Use this link to join](#). You can also [request one on one Technical Assistance](#).

We are excited to continue this journey with you and hope that the updates provided help improve and expand supports for the individuals we serve.

Looking forward to our continued work together!

Thank you.

Jordan A. Scheff, DDS Commissioner