



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

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Operations Memo 2022-25

To: DDS Qualified Providers
From: Sean Bannon, Director, Operations Center
CC: Elisa Velardo, Deputy Commissioner, Scott McWilliams, Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services, Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Resource Administrators
Date: May 31, 2022
Subject: Clustered Supports

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) had met with various stakeholders prior to the pandemic to update and clarify the Clustered Supports service, which is a part of the Individualized Home Supports (IHS) continuum of supports. Outcomes from those conversations have led to the following revisions of Clustered Supports:

1) A revised definition and summary of Clustered Supports:

Clustered Supports:

To provide opportunities for individuals that require overnight and awake staff access, due to health and safety issues, to live independently in their own home in the community and to promote independence and community social interaction. Participation in the clustered support is determined by the team and must be within available resources. Clustered supports provide IHS participants access to awake staff who would be available to provide direct support during the hours of 11:00 pm – 7:00 am time period. Providers would receive a monthly amount to fund the overnight supports as long as they provided one unit of supports during the month to each individual living within the clustered setting.

Individuals will require a minimum LON score of 3 to qualify. Individuals with a LON Score of 1 or 2 may utilize Clustered Supports for up to 2 years. The regional director, or designee, may extend the time period for up to an additional two years as long as there is a goal in the person's IP to phase out the overnight supports and a team approved transition plan. Older individuals (age 65+) or individuals who have needs that closely resemble those of an older person with a LON of 1 or 2 and who desire to remain in an IHS setting with clustered supports may be exempted from this provision with URR approval.

Individuals receiving clustered supports live in their own homes and the clustered setting consists of more than one (1) separate dwelling within one half (1/2) mile from the overnight, awake staff. Assistive

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technology should be utilized to help increase the individual’s independence. Please note that Remote Supports can not be provided at the same time as IHS, but can be used to supplement when direct IHS supports and the Overnight Clustered Supports are not being provided. Clustered Support is also not an option for overnight staff supporting an individual in a CRS or CLA setting, as such settings are paid through the all-inclusive CLA/CRS monthly rate.

2) An updated rate for Clustered Supports:

The updated Clustered Supports rates were adjusted in September 2020 to promote the use of this Clustered Supports and to more accurately account for the costs associated with Providing this service. This was accomplished through recognizing a wider range of cluster sizes and the increased experience required as more individuals are supported as part of a cluster. Updated rates can be accessed through the following link: [DDS Funding Guidelines](#).

IHS Hours When Receiving Cluster Supports	
LON	Hours per Week
1	11*
2	14*
3	17
4	20
5	25
6	33
7	39
8	45

I.H.S Cluster Safety Net - Annualized Amount Per Person	
2 per cluster	\$41,496
3 per cluster	\$27,936
4 per cluster	\$21,288
5 per cluster	\$17,304
6 per cluster	\$15,096
7 per cluster	\$13,908
8 per cluster	\$12,540
9 per cluster	\$11,472
10 per cluster	\$10,620
11 per cluster	\$9,924
12 or greater per cluster	\$9,468

*** Individuals with a LON Score of 1 or 2 may utilize Clustered Supports for up to 2 years, or if the individual has needs that closely resemble those of an older adult.**

For more information or questions on Clustered Supports please contact your Regional Resource Manager.

Thank you.