

NOTICES OF CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

NOTICE OF INTENT TO RENEW THE EMPLOYMENT AND DAY SUPPORTS MEDICAID WAIVER

In accordance with the provisions of section 17b-8(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of Social Services intends to renew the Employment and Day Supports Medicaid waiver to be effective April 1, 2021. This waiver is operated by the Department of Developmental Services and is designed to support individuals with intellectual disability who live with family or in their own homes and require career development, supported employment or community-based day supports, respite, and/or behavioral supports to remain in the community.

As part of the renewal application, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Developmental Services are proposing the following changes to the Employment and Day Supports Medicaid waiver:

- (1) Differentiating Transitional Employment Services from Prevocational Services in the waiver and modifying their definitions to match those used in the Individual and Family Supports and Comprehensive waivers. Prior to this renewal, Prevocational Services was incorrectly listed as an alternate service title to Transitional Employment Services, rather than as a separate service.
- (2) Modifying and aligning performance measures to ensure consistency across all Connecticut Medicaid waivers, including those revisions requested by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (“CMS”); and
- (3) Technical and administrative clarifications, including those revisions requested by CMS.

No current enrollees will be negatively impacted by the changes proposed in the application.

Copies of the complete text of the waiver application are available upon request from: Tammy Venenga, Director of Specialized Service Development, DDS Central Office, 460 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT, 06106, or via email at Tammy.Venenga@ct.gov. It is also available on the Department of Social Services’ website, www.ct.gov/dss, under “News and Press,” as well as the following direct link: <http://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicaid-Waiver-Applications/Medicaid-Waiver-Applications>, and the Department of Developmental Services’ website, <https://portal.ct.gov/dds>, under “Latest News.”

All written comments regarding these applications must be submitted by Friday, November 27, 2020 to: Tammy Venenga, 460 Capitol Avenue Hartford, Connecticut, 06106, or via email at Tammy.Venenga@ct.gov.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA)
SPA 20-AB: Home Health Aide Rate Increase**

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to submit the following Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Changes to Medicaid State Plan

Effective on or after November 1, 2020, SPA 20-AB will amend Attachment 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan to update the home health services fee schedule by increasing the rates by 2.3% for the following services: Health Care Procedural Coding System (HCPCS) codes T1004 (Services of a qualified nursing aide, up to 15 minutes) and T1021 (Home Health aide or certified nurse assistant, per visit) provided by licensed home health agencies. The purpose of this SPA is reflect that home health agencies have increased costs in paying higher wages to home health aides in order to comply with the recent increase in the state's minimum wage.

Fee schedules are published at this link: <http://www.ctdssmap.com>, then select "Provider", then select "Provider Fee Schedule Download."

Fiscal Impact

DSS estimates that this SPA will increase annual aggregate expenditures by approximately \$436,000 in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 and \$766,000 in SFY 2022.

Obtaining SPA Language and Submitting Comments

The proposed SPA is posted on the DSS website at this link: <http://portal.ct.gov/dss>. Scroll down to the bottom of the webpage and click on "Publications" and then click on "Updates." Then click on "Medicaid State Plan Amendments". The proposed SPA may also be obtained at any DSS field office, at the Town of Vernon Social Services Department, or upon request from DSS (see below).

To request a copy of the SPA from DSS or to send comments about the SPA, please email: Public.Comment.DSS@ct.gov or write to: Department of Social Services, Medical Policy Unit, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105 (Phone: 860-424-5067). Please reference "SPA 20-AB: Home Health Aide Rate Increase".

Anyone may send DSS written comments about this SPA. Written comments must be received by DSS at the above contact information no later than November 11, 2020.
