

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health 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 (NOW) AMENDMENT

Pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Department of Community Health (DCH) Board approval, DCH proposes to amend the NOW program to enact the 2022-2023 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) rate study effective July 1, 2024.

In calendar years 2022 and 2023 DCH, in collaboration with DBHDD and the DBHDD provider network, underwent a comprehensive rate study process to establish a current cost-based, reimbursement rate across all services. The rate study met requirements of Senate Bill 610 enacted during the 2022 session requiring a rate study be completed every four years for Home and Community Based Waiver programs. DCH proposes to amend the NOW program to adjust rates as indicated by the rate study.

Rate Increases:

Service Name	Current Rate	Amended Rate	Service Unit	Changes to Service Limits
Support Coordination	\$187.43	\$209.97	Month	Express as 12 months per year rather than in dollar terms (no impact on service levels)
Intensive Support Coordination	\$493.73	\$515.67	Month	Express as 12 months per year rather than in dollar terms (no impact on service levels)
Financial Support Services	No rate changes		Express as 12 months per year rather than in dollar terms (no impact on service levels)	
Community Living Support-Basic, 1:1	\$7.49	\$9.98	15 Min.	Increase from \$52,300 per year to \$65,000 per year
Community Living Support-Basic, 1:2	\$4.11	\$5.49	15 Min.	
Community Living Support-Basic, 1:3	\$2.99	\$3.99	15 Min.	
Community Living Support-Extended, 1:1	\$6.76	\$9.28	15 Min.	
Community Living Support-Extended, 1:2	\$3.72	\$5.10	15 Min.	
Community Living Support-Extended, 1:3	\$2.71	\$3.71	15 Min.	

Service Name	Current Rate	Amended Rate	Service Unit	Changes to Service Limits
Community Living Support, (self-directed)	No rate changes		Increase from \$52,300 per year to \$65,000 per year	
Community Living Support-Basic, 1:1, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$11.14	15 Min.	Increase from \$52,300 per year to \$65,000 per year
Community Living Support-Basic, 1:2, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$6.13	15 Min.	
Community Living Support-Basic, 1:3, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$4.46	15 Min.	
Community Living Support-Extended, 1:1, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$10.40	15 Min.	
Community Living Support-Extended, 1:2, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$5.72	15 Min.	
Community Living Support-Extended, 1:3, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$4.16	15 Min.	
Respite, 1:1	\$5.17	\$9.38	15 Min.	
Respite, 1:2	\$2.85	\$5.16	15 Min.	
Respite, 1:3	\$2.07	\$3.75	15 Min.	
Respite, 1:1, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$10.50	15 Min.	
Respite, 1:2, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$5.77	15 Min.	
Respite, 1:3, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$4.20	15 Min.	
Respite-Daily Category 1 Out of Home	\$164.52	\$184.72	Day	
Respite-Daily Category 2 Out of Home	\$224.39	\$248.94	Day	
Respite-Out-of-Home, (self-directed)	No rate changes		Increase from \$4,935.17 to \$5,541.60 per year for individuals in Category 1; Increase from \$6,731.24 per year to \$7,468.20 for individuals in Category 2;	
Respite-Out-of-Home, (self-directed)	No rate changes			
Respite-In-Home, (self-directed)	No rate changes			

Service Name	Current Rate	Amended Rate	Service Unit	Changes to Service Limits
Supported Employment - Individual (Job Developer)	\$8.73	\$17.92	15 Min.	Increase from \$19,123.78 per year to \$21,686.40 across all Supported Employment services (existing limits of 1,440 units for individual services and 7,680 units for group services continue to apply)
Supported Employment - Individual (Job Developer), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$19.26	15 Min.	
Supported Employment - Individual (Job Coach)	\$8.73	\$15.06	15 Min.	
Supported Employment - Individual (Job Coach), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$16.37	15 Min.	
Supported Employment - Group (1:8 - 1:10)	\$2.16	\$2.47	15 Min.	
Supported Employment - Group (1:5 - 1:7)	\$2.16	\$3.38	15 Min.	
Supported Employment - Group (1:3 - 1:4)	\$2.16	\$5.37	15 Min.	
Supported Employment - Group (1:2)	\$2.16	\$8.95	15 Min.	
Supported Employment - Group (1:8 - 1:10), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$2.63	15 Min.	
Supported Employment - Group (1:5 - 1:7), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$3.63	15 Min.	
Supported Employment - Group (1:3 - 1:4), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$5.78	15 Min.	
Supported Employment - Group (1:2), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$9.67	15 Min.	
Supported Employment, (self-directed)	No rate changes		Increased from \$19,123.00 to \$21,686.40 across all Supported Employment services	
Prevocational Services	No rate changes		Increase from 5,760 units per year (1,440 hours) to 6,000 units (1,500 hours) , in combination with Community Access Group	
Prevocational Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$3.63	15 Min.	

Service Name	Current Rate	Amended Rate	Service Unit	Changes to Service Limits
Community Access Group, Facility	No rate changes		15 Min.	Increase from 5,760 units per year (1,440 hours) to 6,000 units (1,500 hours), in combination with Prevocational Services
Community Access Group, Community, Category 1	No rate changes			
Community Access Group, Community, Category 2	\$3.65	\$4.18		
Community Access Group, Community, Category 3	\$3.65	\$5.23		
Community Access Group, Community, Category 4	\$3.65	\$7.42		
Community Access Group, Facility, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A – New Rate	\$3.97		
Community Access Group, Community, Category 1, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$3.81		
Community Access Group, Community, Category 2, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$4.54		
Community Access Group, Community, Category 3, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$5.71		
Community Access Group, Community, Category 4, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$8.13		
Community Access Group, Community, (self-directed)	No rate changes		Increase from \$19,180.80 per year to \$21,900.00	
Community Access Individual	\$8.73	\$10.55	15 Min.	
Community Access Individual, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	N/A - New Rate	\$11.74	15 Min.	
Skilled Nursing, Registered Nurse	\$10.71	\$36.68	15 Min.	
Skilled Nursing, Licensed Practical Nurse	\$10.71	\$24.36	15 Min.	
Behavior Supports Services, Level 1	\$20.08	\$24.36	15 Min.	
Behavior Supports Services, Level 2	\$25.23	\$36.68	15 Min.	
Nutrition Evaluation	\$15.94	\$28.09	15 Min.	Increase from \$1,927.80 per year to \$2,700 across all Nutrition services
Nutrition Follow-up	\$15.94	\$23.94	15 Min.	
Assistive Technology	No rate changes		Increase annual limit from \$1,279.80 to \$2,000.00; eliminate lifetime limit of \$18,000.00	

Service Name	Current Rate	Amended Rate	Service Unit	Changes to Service Limits
Environmental Accessibility Adaptation	No rate changes			Increase from \$11,138.00 per lifetime to \$15,000.00 every five years
Specialized Medical Equipment	No rate changes			Eliminate lifetime maximum of \$13,474.76
Vehicle Adaptation	No rate changes			Increased from \$6,683.00 per lifetime to \$15,000.00 every five years
Adult OT Evaluation – Low Complexity	\$71.98/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	Increase from \$5,783.40 per year to \$10,800 per year in combination with all adult therapy services
Adult OT Evaluation – Low Complexity – self directed	\$71.98/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult OT Evaluation – Moderate Complexity	\$71.98/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult OT Evaluation – Moderate Complexity (self-directed)	\$71.98/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult OT Evaluation – High Complexity	\$71.98/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult OT Evaluation – High Complexity (self-directed)	\$71.98/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult OT Re-Evaluation	\$47.55/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult OT Re-Evaluation (self-directed)	\$47.55/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult OT Therapeutic Services	No rate changes			
Adult OT Therapeutic Services (self -directed)	No rate changes			
Adult OT Sensory Integrative Techniques	\$26.19	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult OT Sensory Integrative Techniques (self-directed)	\$26.19	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Orthotic and Prosthetic Fitting and Training	\$29.33	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Orthotic and Prosthetic Fitting and Training (self-directed)	\$29.33	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Prosthetic Training	\$26.75	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Prosthetic Training (self-directed)	\$26.75	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Orthotic and Prosthetic Check Out	\$25.05	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Orthotic and Prosthetic Check Out (self-directed)	\$25.05	\$30.23	15 Min.	

Service Name	Current Rate	Amended Rate	Service Unit	Changes to Service Limits
Adult PT Evaluation – Low Complexity	\$74.27/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult PT Evaluation – Low Complexity (self-directed)	\$74.27/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	Increase from \$5,783.40 per year to \$10,800 per year in combination with all adult therapy services
Adult PT Evaluation – Moderate Complexity	\$74.27/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult PT Evaluation – Moderate Complexity (self-directed)	\$74.27/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult PT Evaluation – High Complexity	\$74.27/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult PT Evaluation – High Complexity (self-directed)	\$74.27/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult PT Re-evaluation	\$50.49/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult PT Re-evaluation – self directed	\$50.49/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult PT Therapeutic Procedure	\$27.75	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult PT Therapeutic Procedure (self-directed)	\$27.75	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Neuro-Muscular Re-Education	\$28.99	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Neuro-Muscular Re-Education (self-directed)	\$28.99	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Speech Language Evaluation	\$175.44/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Speech Language Evaluation (self-directed)	\$175.44/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Speech Language Therapy	\$66.97/ Session	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Speech Language Therapy (self-directed)	\$66.97/ Session	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Speech Generating Device Evaluation	\$117.03/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Speech Generating Device Evaluation (self-directed)	\$117.03/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Speech-Generating Device Therapy	\$58.64/ Session	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Speech-Generating Device Therapy (self-directed)	\$58.64/ Session	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy	\$47.83/ Session	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Swallowing/ Feeding Therapy (self-directed)	\$47.83/ Session	\$30.23	15 Min.	

Service Name	Current Rate	Amended Rate	Service Unit	Changes to Service Limits
Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation	\$125.89/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	
Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation (self-directed)	\$125.89/ Eval.	\$30.23	15 Min.	

Note: Services not listed did not indicate rate adjustment needed.

The fiscal impact of the proposed rate amendment is as follows:

	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
SFY 2025	\$3,818,963	\$7,497,320	\$11,316,283

The NOW Individual Cost Limit will increase to \$65,000.

Additional Modifications

DCH proposes to establish wage caps on the wages paid to self-directed staff providing Community Living Services, Community Access-Individual, and Respite effective April 1, 2025. Individuals may negotiate a wage for their staff up to the corresponding agency rate, less the cost of payroll taxes. The wage caps were aligned with the agency-based rate models to ensure compliance with federal law that requires rates whether for agencies or self-directed services to be economic and efficient.

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 **March 20, 2024 at 1:00 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83288398466?pwd=S0NndFdjVktCa01CTncyaDJPR25WZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 8839 8466

Passcode: 192292

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 832 8839 8466

Passcode: 192292

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **April 15, 2024**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia

30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov.

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **May 9, 2024** at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 14th DAY OF MARCH 2024
Russel Carlson, Commissioner