



## DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

### OIFA Member Newsletter - August 2020

#### Complete the 2020 Census

The 2020 census is currently underway, and it is important for members and families to complete the 2020 census. Completing the census is critical. An inaccurate census can result in lost federal dollars for programs and services including transportation, infrastructure, education and affordable housing. Complete the census online or by phone if you have not already submitted the questionnaire sent to you by the Census Bureau.

- Online: <https://my2020census.gov/>
- Phone: 1-844-330-2020

Contact your Support Coordinator if you need help completing the census. Learn more about the census at <https://2020census.gov/en.html>.

#### AHCCCS Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) ensures, tracks and monitors timely service delivery and access to care for members. EVV is being implemented as a result of the 21st Century Cures Act and is a federal requirement.

The EVV systems, must at a minimum, electronically verify the:

- Type of service performed
- Individual receiving the service
- Date of the service
- Location of service delivery
- Individual providing the service
- Time the service begins and ends

The DDD services impacted are:

- Attendant Care
- Homemaker/Housekeeping
- Habilitation Hourly
- Home Health (Nursing)
- Respite
- Skills Training and Development

EVV applies to all providers of these services, including paid family direct care workers. Providers providing impacted services must begin using EVV on January 1, 2021. AHCCCS will be hosting events for members and families regarding EVV. Check [azahcccs.gov/evv](http://azahcccs.gov/evv) often for dates and times.



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### DDD Actions Related to COVID-19

DDD has implemented many [temporary measures](#) to support members and vendors as a result of COVID-19. Those temporary measures including flexibilities and alternative service delivery options will continue at this time. DDD is working with AHCCCS. We will let members and families know when a timeline is created for ending those temporary measures. This will help ensure a smooth transition for members and vendors.

Remember, according to the Arizona Department of Health Services you can help slow the spread of COVID-19 by doing these 6 things:

- Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet
- Avoid large groups and going out if possible
- Wear a face cover when you are out in public
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds often
- Stay home when you are sick

Learn more about COVID-19 at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or <http://azhealth.gov/coronavirus>.

### One Member's Quest for Independent Living

Beau is a man that wanted to live independently. As a resident of an adult developmental (AD) home, Beau was referred by his Support Coordinator to the Affordable Housing Program offered by the DES Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

"For a long time, I wanted to do the housing program," said Beau, "and my SC helped me get on the list. Once I got approved for housing, I went with it."

Beau was able to move out of the adult developmental home and into a one-bedroom apartment. His new place included a fully equipped kitchen and his own clothes washer and dryer. He now lives in the City of Phoenix and is closer to his job at Sky Harbor Airport.

"I like the community," said Beau, who has met and made friends with "quite a few neighbors." He explained, "What I like is that everything is close by." Within walking distance is a Phoenix public library, a CVS and restaurants.

When home, Beau enjoys cooking meals. He cooks meals in quantity then will "package it up, label it so I know what's expired and what's not, and put it in the freezer. This way, I have enough to last me for a while."

He also enjoys the company of his pet rabbit, Bella, and his cat, Hazel. "If I'm having a bad day or if I'm irritated, Hazel lays on my lap. She sleeps right next to me, too."

Beau hopes that other eligible DDD members will "feel the confidence that I feel" to move out on their



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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own. “It’s scary at first but then you start getting used to doing things yourself.” Beau reminds us that the feeling of independence “doesn’t” happen overnight.”

Learn more about the DDD Affordable Housing Program at <https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-disabilities/individuals-and-families/supports-and-services/housing>.

## DDD Weekly Town Hall Meetings

DDD is hosting town hall meetings. DDD will present details about the plans and actions it is taking to support the health and safety of members, families, and workers in its system during the COVID-19 pandemic. Other information related to DDD programs and services will also be shared. Attendees can ask questions after the presentation. Visit <https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-disabilities> and scroll to the “Upcoming DDD Events” section for the schedule.

## Like DDD On Facebook

Like DDD on Facebook, [@OfficialArizonaDDD](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialArizonaDDD), and stay connected to the latest news and events.

## Councils and Committees

There are many ways you can volunteer and positively impact the DD community. Visit the [DDD website](#) to see all the councils and committees you can volunteer to be on.

## DDD is Here to Help

Please contact your Support Coordinator or the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1 (TTY/TDD 711) if you have questions.

Call the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1, TTY/TDD 711, to ask for this material in other formats. Language help is available at no cost to you.