



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCENTIVE RATES AND PAYMENTS

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 06/30/2020

As DDD continues to address the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, DDD is extending the [temporary incentive rate adjustments](#) originally announced April 22, 2020, to ensure the safety and care of DDD members and Direct Care Workers, and the continued viability of DDD Qualified Vendors most directly impacted during the pandemic.

The Division is extending the use of these rates **from April 13, 2020, until July 31, 2020**. The Division will continue providing additional funding by temporarily adjusting rates for select services through an alternative payment model. The temporary incentive rate increases address a significant concern DDD has heard from the provider community related to retention of direct care worker staff (including Attendant Care, Habilitation, Group Homes, Independent Living Arrangements and Respite) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These temporary rate adjustments are intended to assist Qualified Vendors in retaining and recruiting direct care staff. In order to receive the incentive rates, Qualified Vendors must agree to distribute at least 80% of the incentive adjustment amount to the direct care staff in the form of a temporary increase in salary, wages, stipends, and related ERE costs. The incentive adjustment amount is the incremental change between the January 1, 2020, rates and these temporary rates.

For the services that do not have a temporary incentive rate increase, the Division is continuing to issue lump-sum incentive payments in response to survey information collected. The next round of surveys are scheduled to be released after the July 4, holiday.

Please contact DDDBusinessOperationsComments@azdes.gov with any questions or comments.