



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

### DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

## TEMPORARY INCENTIVE RATE FUNDING EXTENSION

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 07/07/2021

DDD appreciates the extraordinary efforts of the DDD Provider Network over the past 12 months during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) to ensure continued service delivery to DDD members in extremely challenging circumstances. DDD continues to address the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on DDD members, vendors, and direct care workers. This effort has required additional expenses, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Sanitation Supplies, and Overtime Costs. In addition, certain services like Day Treatment Programs, Employment and Transportation services had to close temporarily, and upon reopening, had fewer individuals participating in their programs. Although these service providers are delivering services to fewer members, they still pay fixed costs like rent, utilities, and vehicle payments. Considering these financial challenges, DDD implemented a funding strategy that has evolved over the course of the past year and will continue to evolve in 2021.

On March 1, 2021, DDD published a temporary incentive rate book intended to assist Qualified Vendors in retaining and recruiting direct care staff during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This rate book was in effect for services provided through June 30, 2021. **DDD is extending the temporary incentive rate book to be effective for services provided on or after April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021.** The temporary rate book includes the same level of incentive funding in the amount of \$1.22 per hour. The Temporary Incentive Rate Book and the accompanying Temporary Incentive Rate Book Lookup File will be available on the Division's website later this week.

For services that are not included in the Temporary Rate Book, the Division is continuing to issue lump sum incentive payments in response to survey information collected from responding Vendors.

Please contact [DDDBusinessOperationsComments@azdes.gov](mailto:DDDBusinessOperationsComments@azdes.gov) with any questions or comments.