



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

# DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

## PROVIDER TEMPORARY INCENTIVE RATES AND PAYMENTS UPDATE

**Target Audience - Qualified Vendors**

**Transmittal Date - 07/24/2020**

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 August 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 continue to address the concern related to retention of direct care worker staff (including Attendant Care, Habilitation, Group Homes, Independent Living Arrangements and Respite) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 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.

Additionally, to qualify for the rate adjustments from August 1, 2020, to August 31, 2020, eligible Qualified Vendors must apply for the Provider Relief Fund for Medicaid from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The application for the Provider Relief Fund deadline has been extended to August 3, 2020.

HHS has published more information on the [Provider Relief fund website](#) including:

- [A set of instructions for providers](#) to submit an application
- A link to the [portal to complete the application](#) process

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 slated to be released mid-August. Surveys launched in August are also subject to the same requirement that eligible vendors must apply for the Provider Relief Fund for Medicaid.

All vendors must also complete an attestation with the Division verifying application status by August 3, 2020 located at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TVDJQDG>. Vendors who do not qualify for the Provider Relief Fund for Medicaid still need to complete the attestation to qualify for incentive funding, lump-sum incentive payments and rate adjustments in August.

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