



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

### DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

## COVID-19 FLEXIBILITY PARENTS AS PAID PROVIDERS

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 08/23/2022

Throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency, AHCCCS has approved the temporary flexibility to allow family members who qualify, to be hired by a Qualified Vendor Agency and become a Direct Support Professional (DSP) in order to provide paid care to their children under the age of 18. Qualifying members must be eligible for the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCs) and have been assessed by their Support Coordinator for Attendant Care or Habilitation services using established Division criteria.

Support Coordinators are responsible for assessing needs, identifying the appropriate supports and services, and adding them to the member's person-centered service plan. Vendors should inform interested family members and parents about this approved flexibility and communicate to the interested parents that their Support Coordinator will assess the members needs, including identifying any necessary services. The Division has slightly modified assessment criteria for Attendant Care during the PHE only. Please continue to refer to the Division's guidance document on this topic, available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#), for the latest information. However, as indicated in the [Division's Medical Policy Manual Chapter 1240-A Attendant Care and Homemaker \(Direct Care Services\)](#) general supervision may be provided under Attendant Care when specific criteria are met. These criteria are outlined in [Exhibit 1240A-1 Attendant Care Supervision Requirements Age 17 And Under](#) and [Exhibit 1240A-2 Attendant Care Supervision Requirements Age 18 And Above](#). For members age 17 and under, one of the Attendant Care Supervision criteria is that a parent, guardian or other adult is not available in the home.

During the member's person-centered planning meetings, the planning team should identify the skills needed by the DSP that can best meet the member's assessed needs. Qualified Vendor Agencies should submit any recommendations to the member's Support Coordinator at least five working days prior to the scheduled person-centered service planning meeting per [Provider Manual Chapter 2, Provider Responsibilities and Expectations](#).