

DDD SHOUT

VENDOR & PROVIDER NEWSLETTER

Volume XLVII - August 2023

REMINDER: DDD Begins Accepting Applications for RFQVA DDD-2024 September 1, 2023

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (Division) strongly encourages existing Qualified Vendors (QV) to submit their application for the new contract, RFQVA DDD-2024, as close to September 1, 2023 as possible, and before November 30, 2023.

Submitting an application after November 30, 2023 may delay the application's review and the decision rendered on it, and/or the applicant may be required to reapply after March 1, 2024.

As a reminder, pursuant to A.A.C R6-6-210 Qualified Vendor Application Process, the Division will advise each Qualified Vendor applicant in writing whether their application is complete within 30 days of receiving the application. The Division will also notify the Qualified Vendor applicant in writing whether the applicant has been accepted as a vendor within 60 days of receiving the completed application.

R6-6-2103. Qualified Vendor Application Process

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E. The Division shall advise each Qualified Vendor applicant in writing whether the application is complete within 30 days of receipt of the application and shall identify the information or documentation that is missing or incomplete in the application.

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2. The Division shall specify the time-frame in which the applicant must provide the missing information.

3. The Division shall deny the application if the applicant does not provide the additional information within the time-frame defined by the Division.

F. The Division shall notify a Qualified Vendor applicant in writing whether the applicant has been accepted as a Qualified Vendor within 60 days of receipt of a complete application.

Program Review Committee (PRC) Monthly Update

This month, the Program Review Committee (PRC) will review two important concepts related to behavior: antecedent events and precursor behaviors.

First, it is important to quickly review the "ABCs" of the behavior sequence, otherwise known as the **A**ntecedent, **B**ehavior, and **C**onsequence. This update will focus primarily on what happens before a person engages in a target behavior, which includes both the antecedent event and precursor behavior.

Antecedent events can also be framed as situations and/or environments (including people, place, time of day, etc.) that serve as a “trigger” for a person’s behavior. As a result, these antecedent events also provide information on the function of that person’s behavior.

For example, Sarah does not like to be over-prompted during her daily hygiene tasks, and when a staff member uses more than two prompts during a task, Sarah will throw the items at others and scream. From this example, it is clear the antecedent event that “triggers” Sarah’s target behavior is being over-cued during tasks and suggests that the function of her behaviors is escape. Identifying the antecedent events that are present before a person behaves allows the provider to identify the situations that lead to target behavior and why those behaviors are occurring.

With regards to precursor behavior, these also occur prior to target behavior, or the “B” in the ABCs of the behavior sequence. However, unlike antecedent events, precursor behaviors do not describe situations in the environment that lead to target behavior, but are pre-target behaviors that a person engages in that signal a challenging behavior is likely coming. Again, looking at the example above with Sarah engaging in target behavior as a response to being over-prompted, staff might observe Sarah sigh really loudly, clench her fists, quickly grab an item nearby that she isn’t currently using, or any number of other “signaling behaviors.”

Why is it important that staff identify antecedent events and precursor behaviors in order to support members?

By taking the steps to observe both antecedent events and precursor behaviors, staff are engaging in the critical skill of “solving a problem before it is a problem.” That is, if staff are able to accurately identify these core components, they will be one step closer to being able to proactively support members by recognizing the situations that can be frustrating or difficult for members. They can also identify the less-intensive precursor behaviors that signal a person is having difficulty navigating the situation.

Staff can then use this critical information to jump in quickly and support members to engage in alternative replacement behavior that is more appropriate or functional. This proactive approach is the foundation for antecedent-based supports (such as functional communication training, giving reminders or priming before an activity, using visual schedules to map out a member’s week, etc.). It is only possible by first identifying the antecedent events and precursor behaviors that are present before a person engages in target behavior.

For a resource on the ABCs of the behavior sequence, including a Competing Pathways of Behavior Flow Chart that gives a visual representation of where antecedent events and precursor behaviors fall in the sequence, please see the “Other Resources” sub-folder in the PRC Guide and Resources folder.

This folder can be found embedded in the PRC email signatures: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kfR7YPfaF_k_mtbPidrQgs1jlqoiy08z.

Take the Qualified Vendor Cultural Competency Survey

DDD is conducting its annual Cultural Competency survey in order to gather information about the current resources that Qualified Vendor Agencies have in place to support both management and DSP staff, as well as members and families to deliver Culturally Competent, family-focused, and person-centered care. This survey will assist the Division with identifying future resources and funding mechanisms to support this important component of service delivery.

Qualified Vendors are to complete the survey by **no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 8, 2023.**

[2023 Qualified Vendor Cultural Competency Survey](#)

Get Caught Up

Did you know the Division posts vendor announcements and editions of the Shout on the web? Get caught up and stay informed by visiting the [Vendor Announcements page](#) online.

Report Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Misconduct

Report to DDD:

- Call DDD at 1-877-822-5799
- Send an email to dddfwa@azdes.gov
- Send a letter to DES/DDD
- Attn: Corporate Compliance Unit
1789 W Jefferson St.
Mail Drop 2HA1
Phoenix, AZ 85007
- Complete this [online form](#).

Report to AHCCCS

- Provider Fraud
 - In Arizona: 602-417-4045
 - Outside Arizona: 1-888-ITS-NOT-OK (1-888-487-6686)
- Report Member Fraud:
 - In Arizona: 602-417-4193
 - Outside Arizona: 1-888-ITS-NOT-OK (1-888-487-6686)
- If you have questions about AHCCCS fraud, abuse of the program, or abuse of a member, email the AHCCCS Office of Inspector General (OIG) at AHCCCSFraud@azahcccs.gov.

If there are other individuals in your organization who would benefit from receiving DDD Vendor Announcements, please encourage them to sign up at <https://azdes-community.secure.force.com/subscribe/>.