



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

# DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

## DDD UPDATES

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 04/08/2020

DDD continues to work with AHCCCS and CMS to find ways to maintain service delivery while ensuring the health and safety of members, families and the professionals that support them.

### **Parents of Minor Children as DCWs**

AHCCCS has received approval from CMS to allow parents to receive payment for provision of HCBS services to minor children during the COVID-19 emergency. Previously DDD only allowed payment for provision of services to members 18 years and older. DDD has developed guidance for parents to utilize if they are interested in this opportunity. The guidance has been posted to the DES website in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

### **Respite Benefit Limit Increased**

The Respite hours benefit limit is increasing from 600 hours to 720 hours. Support Coordinators have been informed that the increase is available for the October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 benefit year. Members will be assessed for this service through the current planning process. Not all members need or will receive the maximum benefit.

### **Expanded Service Settings**

AHCCCS received approval from CMS to expand the settings where services can be provided. DDD, in certain circumstances, will allow vendors to utilize an alternative setting to serve a member who has tested positive for COVID-19 or a situation caused by COVID-19 makes an alternative setting more appropriate. More detailed guidance around this topic will be released April 9, 2020.

### **Service Delivery Guidance for Employment and other Habilitation Services via Telehealth**

DDD is creating service delivery and billing guidance for employment and other habilitative services that may be delivered via telehealth. DDD is creating this guidance to ensure that services can be delivered flexibly, but also in an effective and safe manner. Additionally, DDD wants to ensure that vendors have a clear way to bill and be paid for these services. Guidance will include potential flexibilities, as well as requirements to review outcomes and teaching strategies for members who need physical guidance or specific environmental supports. It will explicitly exclude telehealth delivery for group home and developmental home services and will prohibit use of video support in private spaces, such as restrooms/ bathrooms. DDD will be finalizing this guidance before the end of this week and sending it out via vendor announcement. Employment and other habilitation services are not authorized for telehealth delivery until the Division finalizes and posts this guidance.

Please continue to check the [DDD COVID-19 webpage](#) for frequent updates and resources related to COVID-19 and its impact on the DDD community.