

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Parents as Paid Caregivers (PPCG) Program Update Public Forums

AHCCCS received temporary authority from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to allow parents of minor children with disabilities to be paid caregivers during the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on April 6, 2020. This ensured children received services during the PHE. AHCCCS sent an 1115 Waiver amendment to CMS requesting to make this authority permanent on September 27, 2023.

On February 16, 2024, AHCCCS received permanent approval from CMS to allow parents of minor children to be paid to provide attendant care and habilitation when the definition of “extraordinary care” is met. AHCCCS defines “extraordinary care” as:

- Care for the member that exceeds the range of activities a parent would ordinarily perform in the household on the member’s behalf if they did not have a disability or chronic illness, and
- Care which is necessary to assist the member’s health and welfare to avoid institutionalization.

The CMS approval limits parents to 40 hours of paid care per week per child. This limit applies when the member is assessed for more than 40 hours of service per week. AHCCCS and DDD have developed a timeline to comply with this requirement.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and AHCCCS began working with a group including families, providers, and health plans on May 15, 2024. This group focused on:

1. Revising policy and procedures.
2. Revising and developing tools for use in the assessment process.

AHCCCS and DDD are hosting virtual town halls to provide a timeline for the 40-hour weekly limit and an update on the group’s progress. The meeting dates, times, and ways to join are listed below.

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

- [Join using Zoom](#)
- Join by phone: 1-669-254-5252
- Meeting ID: 1603060145

Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

- [Join using Zoom](#)
- Join by phone: 1-669-254-5252
- Meeting ID: 1612474781