



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

TEMPORARY INCENTIVE RATE ADJUSTMENT

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 04/22/2020

In response to COVID-19, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD or Division) has developed a complement of temporary provider payment strategies 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.

Effective from April 13, 2020, to May 31, 2020, the Division is providing additional funding by temporarily adjusting rates for select services through an alternative payment model. The temporary incentive rate increases would address a significant concern DDD is hearing from the provider community related to retention of direct care worker staff (including Attendant Care, Habilitation, Group Homes, Independent Living Arrangements and Respite) during this pandemic situation.

The rate adjustments are intended to assist Qualified Vendors in retaining and recruiting direct care staff. In order to receive the incentives, 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. The Division reserves the right to request documentation from each qualified vendor to verify the use of the incentive adjustment.

The Division has developed a temporary rate book (effective April 13, 2020 - May 31, 2020) that can be [accessed here](#). For dates of service between April 13, 2020 and May 31, 2020, claims may be submitted utilizing these temporary rates. If a Qualified Vendor providing one of the applicable services has already billed for DOS after April 13, 2020; they are encouraged to follow the claims replacement process for the claims they have already submitted.

Qualified Vendors providing services not included in the temporary rate book will continue to be eligible for one-time payments on a monthly basis through the end of May. The Division is continuing to monitor and address issues with other services through survey participation. The survey results assist in determining potential incentive payments.

The Division believes the following combination of initiatives will assist in supporting DDD Qualified Vendors that continue to offer care to our most vulnerable population. We recognize the need to work in close partnership with the vendor community during this unprecedented time. We thank you in advance for your participation as well as your continued dedication and commitment to DDD members.

Please contact DDDBusinessOperationsComments@azdes.gov with any questions or comments.