



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

September 1, 2014

To: Financial Management Services Agencies

Subject: Information Letter No. 14-52
Medically Dependent Children Program Employment Services

The purpose of this letter is to inform Financial Management Services Agencies (FMSAs) that effective September 1, 2014, an individual in the Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) may also receive employment assistance or supported employment through the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) option. Previously, an individual in the MDCP program could receive only respite and flexible family support through the CDS option. These changes are included in amendments to the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) rules at Title 40 of the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 41 and Chapter 51.

Prior to authorizing the service, DADS case managers will conduct a Job Interest Assessment with individuals to determine the need for employment services through the MDCP waiver.

Employment Assistance

Employment assistance helps the individual locate competitive employment in the community. Employment assistance includes:

- identifying an individual's employment preferences, job skills, and requirements for a work setting and work conditions;
- locating prospective employers offering employment compatible with an individual's identified preferences, skills, and requirements; and
- contacting a prospective employer on behalf of an individual and negotiating the individual's employment.

CDS employers may not use employment assistance funds for incentive payments, subsidies, or unrelated vocational training.

Supported Employment

Supported employment is provided, in order to sustain competitive employment, to an individual who, because of a disability, requires intensive, ongoing support to be self-employed, work from home, or perform in a work setting at which individuals without disabilities are employed. Individuals receiving supported employment earn at least minimum wage (if not self-employed). Supported employment includes employment adaptations, supervision, and training related to an individual's assessed needs.

Provider Qualifications

In addition to the current requirements for all providers (criminal history and registry checks), the CDS employer and FMSAs must ensure service providers of employment assistant and supported employment are at least 18 years of age, are not the individual's legally authorized representative, and must satisfy one of the following combinations of education and experience:

Option 1:

- a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation, business, marketing, or a related human services field; and
- six months of paid or unpaid experience providing services to people with disabilities.

Option 2:

- an associate's degree in rehabilitation, business, marketing, or a related human services field; and
- one year of paid or unpaid experience providing services to people with disabilities.

Option 3:

- a high school diploma or GED; and
- two years of paid or unpaid experience providing services to people with disabilities.

DADS will host a webinar for providers, CDS employers and FMSAs to review employment services from 1:30p.m. to 3:00pm, central standard time on September 22, 2014, and September 25, 2014. Register for this webinar at:

<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/communications/alerts/alerts.cfm?alertid=1520>

Service Codes and Rates

The new employment CDS service codes and corresponding bill codes are as follows:

Service Group	Bill Code	Service	Service Code
18	G6067	CDS-SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT-TAXES	37V
18	G6068	CDS-SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT-ES/BENEFITS	37V
18	H2027	CDS-SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT	37V
18	G6077	CDS-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE-TAXES	54V
18	G6078	CDS-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE-ES/BENEFITS	54V
18	H2029	CDS-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE	54V

Rates can be found at <https://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Rad/long-term-svcs/downloads/2014-mdcp-rates.pdf>

Information Letter No 14-52
September 1, 2014
Page 3

Revised Forms

Form 2402 Consumer Directed Services Option Authorization

Form 2408 Individual Plan of Care Service Review

Form 2410 Medical Social Assessment and Individual Plan of Care

Form 1735 Employer and Financial Management Services Agreement and MDCP Service Provision Requirements Addendum

MDCP CDS employer budget available on the CDS DADS website at:
<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/cds/handbook.html>.

If you have any questions about this information letter, please contact the CDS Mailbox at cds@dads.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Donna Jessee
Director
Center for Policy and Innovation

[signature on file]

Elisa J. Garza
Assistant Commissioner
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