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FLORIDA MEDICAID

A Division of the Agency for Health Care Administration

Florida Medicaid Health Care Alert

March 18, 2020

Provider Type(s): 67

iBudget Provider Payment Flexibility

The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) recognize the financial impact that the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is having on certain Individual Budgeting (iBudget) home and community-based waiver providers. We understand how federal and state regulations, guidance, and best practices related to the precautions that should be taken during the COVID-19 state of emergency may create reimbursement issues for iBudget providers. The purpose of this alert is to describe in broad terms the revised payment methodology that will be used over the next few months to help support providers of adult day training, residential habilitation, life skills development level 1- companion and in-home personal supports.

The Agency is taking this proactive approach to offset any hardships the providers may face in the coming weeks. To that end, the Agency is pursuing federal approval to make monthly advanced payments to iBudget providers that are delivering adult day training, residential habilitation, life skills development level 1- companion and in-home personal support services. The first payment will be made on April 1, 2020. A monthly payment will be released for these providers each month until further notice. The advance payments have been determined by reviewing each provider's average monthly reimbursement amount from Florida Medicaid provided through the fee-for-service delivery system. Providers should expect to receive the payments the way they are regularly paid by Florida Medicaid (e.g., electronic funds transfer). The Agency will provide information on reconciling payments at a later date.

The Agency and APD expects providers accepting payments through the revised methodology will not lay off staff and will maintain staff salary and wages at existing levels. APD will require providers to continue to document the delivery of services in accordance with requirements in the iBudget Handbook, to the extent the provider is able to continue to provide services.

We understand that there may be other iBudget waiver providers financially impacted during this state of emergency that may desire the same flexibility. At this time, federal regulations only allow the Agency to implement advanced payments (or "retention payments") for the provider types listed in this alert. However, the Agency is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to determine if additional flexibility can be approved to cover other home and community-based waiver providers that are prevented from providing services due to this state of emergency.

As service partners to some of the state's most vulnerable individuals, we will get through this period together. Please be aware that federal and state guidance related to COVID-19 is being updated continuously. The Agency and APD will communicate updates to providers as quickly as possible.

QUESTIONS? FLMedicaidManagedCare@ahca.myflorida.com
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