



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

MEMORANDUM

OCDD-SC-22-017

DATE: August 31, 2022
TO: Support Coordination Agencies
FROM: Paul Rhorer, OCDD Waiver Director
SUBJECT: OCDD Hazard Pay Policy for In-Home HCBS Services for the COVID-19 Pandemic

OCDD issued guidance for Hazard Payment on October 29, 2020 (*OCDD Hazard Pay Policy for In-Home HCBS Services for the COVID-19 Pandemic OCDD-P-20-052*). **This guidance supersedes OCDD-P-20-052.** Hazard Pay is approved for each waiver individual for up to **40 days per person and no more**. An individual can use the Hazard Pay for DSWs as many times as necessary provided there is proof of COVID in the home but no more than 40 days total.

When requesting Hazard Pay the provider should follow the current procedure (new steps indicated):

Process for Current Reporting:

- The HCBS Personal Care Attendant (PCA) provider agency shall report to the Support Coordinator that the participant has tested positive for COVID-19 or is quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19 because a household member has tested positive.
- The provider may request hazard pay for a DSW that is working with an individual that is in quarantine due to exposure or has received a positive COVID-19 test by completing the *OCDD Hazard Pay Request Form* (OCDD-PF-20-019, Revised 2022) attached to this memo.
- The provider is required to verify if the DSW is eligible for hazard pay based on the OCDD Hazard Pay Policy exceptions (see Exceptions section below). Once verified, the provider must sign the request and forward it to the Support Coordinator.

NOTE: Providers who use a third party EVV system must enter the DSW's EVV ID on the request form.

- **NEW STEP: The HCBS Personal Care Attendant (PCA) provider agency must now look up the recipient's past billing documentation and see how many days of Hazard Pay they have previously billed. If all forty (40) days of Hazard Pay have been billed then the individual's DSWs are no longer eligible for Hazard pay. If there are days left in the recipient's 40 day budget, the HCBS PCA provider should add on the request document the amount of days left and only request the number of days needed for the DSW.**

Prior Authorization of Hazard Pay Units:

- Upon the receipt of the *Hazard Pay Request Form*, the Support Coordination Agency will submit a hazard pay request via LaSRS per instructions but list only the number of days needed for this instance of COVID, not to exceed the 40 days or the number of days the individual has left in their 40 day budget.
- **NEW STEP/NEW FORM:**
 - **The Support Coordination Agency must determine how many days of the 40 days allowed have been used by previous provider agencies:**
 - **If days were prior authorized and not used, the days not used must be listed on the *Hazard Pay Return Form (New Form)* (OCDD-PF-22-006) and "returned" prior to additional days being prior authorized for this new round of COVID exposure**
 - **Once the days are requested to be "returned," the Support Coordinator may request days equal to or less than the number of days "returned" for Hazard Pay for the DSW using the (updated) Hazard Pay Request Form.**
- No more than 40 days of hazard pay will be allowed for a single participant.
- Once submitted, Statistical Resources, Inc. will issue a prior authorization for the number of units requested for the eligible DSWs during the specified timeframe.

Important Points:

- Providers and Support Coordinators must communicate and have an accurate accounting of dates of exposure and testing, including test results.
- *Quarantined due to Exposure* is defined as living with someone who has received a positive COVID-19 test.
- Information must be in LaSRS.
- Information will be verified by the Support Coordinator.

Exceptions (no change):

- Hazard pay is not available to DSWs working in a home where a household member is isolating **but has not tested positive**.
- The hazard pay is to ensure DSWs who **normally** work with the individual(s) outside of COVID-19 exceptions will continue to work during the period immediately following the positive COVID-19 test result.

The individuals listed below are not eligible for hazard pay:

- **Household members that have become DSWs** under the exception criteria (i.e. live in same household as the individual) **will not be eligible for hazard pay**.
- **Legal guardians including parents of minor children who have become DSWs** under the exception criteria **are not eligible for hazard pay**.
- DSWs working for waiver recipients that have used all of the 40 days of Hazard pay.

If there are any hours left under the 40 day maximum, payment criteria is listed below:

Payment Criteria:

- The Provider will be able to bill up to \$.79/per unit for each 15-minute unit the approved DSW worked with the individual during the period after a positive COVID-19 test result was received.
- A minimum of \$.50 per 15-minute unit shall be paid to the DSW. OCDD reserves the right to review and audit all records related to the hazard pay and may assess penalties/recoupment for non-compliance.
- The procedure code to be used is S5125 TU. Statistical Resources, Inc. (SRI) will release the same number of units for S5125 TU as was released for the S5125 services recorded in LaSRS for the time frame and DSWs approved.

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The following OCDD waiver services are eligible for hazard pay:

OCDD WAIVER	ELIGIBLE IN-HOME SERVICE	PROCEDURE CODES	MODIFIERS
NOW	Individual and Family Support (IFS) Day, Night, Single and Shared	S5125	U1, UJ, UN, UP
ROW	Community Living Support (CLS) Single and Shared	S5125	None, UN, UP
Children's Choice	Family Support (FS) Single and Shared	S5125	None, UN
Supports Waiver	In-Home Respite	S5125	None

If you have any questions for OCDD, please contact OCDD-HCBS@la.gov.

c: Medicaid Program Support and Waivers
Statistical Resources, Inc.
OCDD Waiver Staff
Local Governing Entities

Attachments: *OCDD Request for Hazard Pay Form* (OCDD-PF-20-019, Revised 2022)

OCDD Hazard Pay Return Form (OCDD-PF-22-006)