



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities
Office of Aging and Adult Services
Bureau of Health Services Financing

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 12, 2023

TO: Home and Community Based Service Providers
Support Coordination Agencies

FROM: Julie Foster Hagan, OCDD Assistant Secretary
Melinda Richard, OAAS Assistant Secretary
Brian Bennett, Bureau of Health Services Financing

SUBJECT: Update on Bonus Payments for Direct Support Workers/Support Coordinators

OCDD-P-23-029
OCDD-SC-23-021
OAAS-P-23-010
OAAS-SC-23-016

Handwritten signatures of Julie Foster Hagan, Melinda M. Richard, and Brian Bennett.

In recent weeks, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has received numerous inquiries and concerns regarding the status of bonus payments for direct support workers and support coordinators who worked through the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate this outreach from our stakeholders and want to provide an update on the status of the bonus payments.

In the fall of 2022, LDH was prepared to make the payments; however, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) contacted us with concerns related to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). LDH worked closely with DOL to revise the original bonus payment plan to comply with FLSA. The revised plan required resubmission and approval by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) prior to the issuance of payment.

LDH has engaged in weekly meetings with CMS to work toward approval of the revised plan. We have received verbal notification from CMS that we are near final approval; however, approval from CMS has not been received to date.

Once this approval is obtained, we will share additional information regarding next steps with all providers, direct support workers, and self-direction participants.

We do understand the concerns due to the delay, and LDH remains committed to providing these bonus payments and working with CMS to obtain final approval.