

Topic	Question	Answer
Rate Questions	Which waivers and services are included in this rate increase? Is there a document with a breakdown of the rate for each service? Where is it located?	The rate increase and wage floor apply to specific services provided by front-line direct support workers in all four OCDD Home and Community Based Waivers (Children’s Choice Waiver (CCW), Supports Waiver (SW), Residential Options Waiver (ROW), and New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)). This includes in-home services, community based services, employment services, and day habilitation services. We have published a detailed list of services that includes the breakdown of the specific services, the old rate, and the new rate (see OCDD-P-21-036, OCDD-R-21-007 Attachment A). This was included in the information sent to providers through LaSRS, and is posted on our OCDD website .
	Will the rates increase automatically through SRI, and how will they be disbursed?	No. Providers will have to bill for the higher rate in order to get higher reimbursement. Providers should bill that higher rate for services provided beginning midnight October 1, 2021. The rate increase applies to all services included on the spreadsheet, and providers will be paid through the normal billing process at the higher rate once the higher rate is billed.
	Will SRI automatically adjust the budgets for all POCs already submitted in LaSRS?	The Comprehensive Plan of Care (CPOC) budgets will be adjusted; however, if you have questions about your individual situation, you should reach out to your Support Coordinator (SC).
	Will this affect our quarterly units? We are in the NOW waiver, will increasing our workers pay rate affect the total number of hours we have available per quarter?	No. This rule will increase the rate on the identified services paid in quarterly hour units. The rate increase does not have an impact in the current number of approved hours.
	How much will the new pay increase per hour be?	In general, there is a \$2.50/hour rate increase and the rule requires a minimum \$9.00 per hour pay floor for direct support workers. The number of hours and how much money is given to workers above the minimum are decisions that are left to the providers.
	If an employee is currently making above the \$9 / hour wage floor, what action needs to be taken?	That is up to the provider or the self-direction employer. Provider agencies are encouraged to identify mechanisms to ensure some additional money is given to the direct support worker and to maintain records for how the funds with the rate increase

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		are spent. For the maximum amount that can be paid to staff in self-direction, contact Acumen or Morning Sun who can advise.
	Why is this considered a “temporary” increase and will LDH request this be a permanent increase?	This rate increase is considered temporary because the funding is through the New Opportunities Waiver Fund, which only has funds added if there is a surplus of state dollars. In order to be a long term or “permanent” increase, additional state general fund dollars will need to be appropriated by the Legislature to add to the base of the Medicaid budget. LDH has committed to requesting additional funds during the budget process.
	When I multiply the 15 minute rate by 4 I get more than a \$2.50 increase. It is \$2.52. Is that correct?	You should bill at the 15-minute unit rate that is included in the spreadsheet for services billed on a unit basis.
Service Questions	We feel that SIL and transportation are direct services that are important to providing quality of care to participants. Why were they not included in the rate increase?	Supported Independent Living (SIL) and Transportation were not included as direct services for the purposes of this rate increase. They have not been considered as a direct service by OCDD in the past. We are not able to go back now and add these services to the list of direct care services because all appropriated funds have been accounted for in the identified services. OCDD will take these comments into consideration when evaluating future rate adjustments. Additionally, OCDD strives to ensure the service delivery system promotes quality of services for individuals with I/DD and their support system. This rate adjustment does not modify this goal.
	Will the MIHC program under the ROW & NOW get an increase too?	For the purposes of this rate increase, effective 10/1/21, with the established emergency rule, the services that are included are those on the spreadsheet. OCDD is evaluating the rate for MIHC in a separate activity, and additional information will be provided when finalized.
	How long will the caregiver be able to continue to work with the individual? Family members being paid under Appendix K Exception are included in the wage floor increase, correct?	Family members are allowed to be direct caregivers under Appendix K of the waiver. This will continue until 6 months after the end of the public health emergency (PHE). OCDD is in the process of making waiver amendments, and we will provide additional information on this in a different webinar. All staff providing direct support services that are identified in the spreadsheet, including paid family members, must receive the minimum wage floor of \$9.00/hour.

OCDD-RC-21-04

OCDD-PC-21-003

OCDD-SCC-21-001

Waiver Rate Increase and Wage Floor for 10/1/2021

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CCW and ROW	Will the budgets for Children's Choice Waiver and Residential Options Waiver increase? Is a budget revision form needed?	Yes. The budget will increase for CC and ROW; the amounts can be found in OCDD HCBS Waiver Rate Increase Memorandum (OCDD-P-21-036, OCDD-R-21-007). There should not be a need to revise your CPOC. However, please consult with your support coordinator if you have questions about your CPOC.
	Please explain the ROW Caps table included in the memo. What is the impact on the cap for Companion Care?	The ROW caps in the memo are the new individual service caps for recipients that will allow DSWs to be paid the higher rates without any loss in services. Each ROW recipient has an individual cap just as Children's Choice. There is no cap on companion care.
	Are Community Living Supports and Vocational services the only services in the ROW that are included in these increases to DSW rate of pay? I am specifically asking if the Daily Rate for Shared Living Services in the ROW will increase based on the increase in DSW pay. I have a community home provider considering transitioning some homes to the ROW using the Shared Living Options and need to know how the daily shared rates are impacted.	The ROW caps in the memo are the new individual service caps for recipients that will allow DSWs to be paid the higher rates.
Overtime	What is the plan to financially support overtime, other direct costs, and indirect costs related to the provision of these services? Is there a plan to remove the requirement to pay the dsw overtime so they can work more hours?	You are still required to follow the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Overtime must be paid at \$9.00 per hour minimum. There is consideration given for associated costs in the rate increase, in that 30% of the \$2.50 increase is dedicated to these associated costs.

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Forms	Do we have to complete a new pay increase?	Yes, if the rule applies to you.
Timing Questions	Will OCDD require compliance for the wage floor starting on October 1? This is a Friday and in the middle of a pay period for most organizations.	Compliance will begin on the 10/01/2021. If you bill the higher rate on the 1 st , compliance will begin on the first. You cannot bill the higher rate on October 1-3, 2021 and not comply with the pay increase until the 4 th .
	Will the rates be retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year?	No.
	Will this include long term care (LTC)?	No, this rate increase and rule only covers the NOW, ROW, SW, and Children's Choice Waivers.
	The new rules that came out don't mention self-direction; is this included in the rate increase?	Self-direction is not a service. It is a provider option. The rule covers all employees of providers of I/DD waiver services. This would include employees of self-direction providers as well.
	Is the minimum rate for self-direction going to be a flat \$9 per hour or is it slightly off due to the payroll taxes, etc. that we pay.	Yes. The minimum hourly pay is \$9. The taxes are applied on top of the minimum.
	What is required for people in self-direction if they want to increase their staff wages? As a Direct Care provider, I only received a .pdf memo from Morning Sun... no spreadsheet. Will I be able to adjust both my day and night shift pay rates up by \$2.50/hour?	If you would like to increase your worker's wages talk to Morning Sun or Acumen to identify any necessary forms, and to know what increase can be given. Then follow the normal process for raising wages.
	Do we need to contact our support coordinator to adjust the budget?	If you would like to increase the number or amount of services received, you must change your plan of care. Therefore, you should contact your SC if you would like to make this change.
Audit	Will payroll records be provided by Fiscal Agent for Self Direction for audits?	OCDD is in the process of identifying the audit process, and we will advise once completed.

OCDD-RC-21-04

OCDD-PC-21-003

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Webinar Questions	Will this be available for replay?	To be determined.