



# State of Louisiana


Louisiana Department of Health  
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

**MEMORANDUM**

**OCDD-P-21-036**  
**OCDD-R-21-007**

**DATE:** September 23, 2021

**TO:** Home and Community Based Waiver Service Providers  
Self-Direction Participants and Employers

**FROM:** Julie Foster Hagan, Assistant Secretary   
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

**SUBJECT:** OCDD HCBS Waiver Rate Increase and Direct Support Worker Wage Floor  
(Webinar Information Below)

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), including the Bureau of Healthcare Financing (Medicaid) and the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), as authorized by the Louisiana Legislature, will be implementing a rate increase for OCDD Home and Community Based Waiver services that are provided by a direct support worker (DSW), and a commensurate wage floor requirement for direct support workers effective October 1, 2021. This memorandum is to clarify *OCDD HCBS Waiver Rate Increase and Direct Support Worker Wage Floor (OCDD-P-21-035)* and the *IDD Rate Increase (OCDD-P-21-035 Attachment A)* released 9/21/2021.

This direct support worker wage floor applied to the four (4) I-DD Medicaid Waivers:

- (1) The New Opportunities Waiver;
- (2) Children's Choice Waiver;
- (3) Supports Waiver; and
- (4) Residential Options Waiver.

The per unit rate of the services provided by a direct support worker will be increased. The amount of this increase will depend on the unit of service and ratio of direct support workers to recipients. The value of the hourly increase will equate to a \$2.50 per hour rate increase, and providers are expected to utilize this rate increase-to-increase wages to direct support workers.

With the addition of the \$2.50 per hour increase, the new base minimum hourly compensation for any direct support worker providing care to any recipient of OCDD Home and Community Based waiver services will be \$9.00 before the application of taxes and benefits.

The floor is applicable to both traditional providers of service and self-directed providers of services.

To accommodate the rate increases, we will be increasing expenditure caps on both the Children's Choice (CC) Waiver and the Residential Options Waiver (ROW) as noted in the table below.

Implementation of I/DD HCBS Direct Support Worker Wage Floor (WEBINAR)

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<b>REVISED ROW CAPS</b>			<b>EFFECTIVE 10/01/2021</b>	
<b>Level</b>	<b>PREVIOUS CAPS</b>	<b>PROPOSED ROW CAPS</b>		
1	\$173.18	\$199.51		
2	\$184.54	\$212.73		
3	\$203.86	\$235.08		
4	\$224.32	\$258.65		

	<b>CURRENT CAP</b>	<b>PROPOSED CAP</b>
<b>CHILDREN'S CHOICE</b>	\$17,500.00	\$20,200.00

Starting October 1, 2021, providers of services affected by this rate increase should bill the new rates as published with this notice. If the programming is not in place to ensure payment of the new rate by October 1, 2021, a retroactive payment of the difference between the paid rate and new rate will be done by recycle back to the effective date as soon as approved programming is in place.

We are attaching the new revised rate sheet for all affected services (*Revised Medicaid Rate Sheet, OCDD-P-21-036, OCDD-R-21-007 Attachment A*).

The Louisiana Legislature has also authorized LDH to implement auditing procedures to ensure that all affected providers implement the new direct support worker wage floor rule. Failure to comply with the new floor will result in possible punitive actions by LDH. LDH will determine the final details of the auditing process and the penalties for non-compliance. OCDD will provide notice of both prior to the end of the fiscal year.

OCDD will hold a Zoom webinar on Tuesday September 28, 2021 from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM to explain the rate increase and the DSW direct care floor. You must register in advance of the webinar; space is limited. You can register at [https://ldhocddadmin.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4I\\_XujWfSZC9SMz15rId-g](https://ldhocddadmin.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4I_XujWfSZC9SMz15rId-g). Once you have registered you will receive a confirmation email and information for joining the webinar.

At the time of registration you can enter any questions you may have, and those questions will be addressed in the webinar. Please send any additional questions to [OCDDInfo@la.gov](mailto:OCDDInfo@la.gov).

CC: Bureau of Healthcare Financing  
 Local Governing Entities  
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