

7.4. B Temporary Extension to the Disaster Relief Policies for COVID-19 National Emergency

Effective May 12, 2023 until May 12, 2024, the agency temporarily extends the following elections(s) of Section 7.4 approved on September 21, 2022 in disaster relief SPA LA TN 22-0031 of the State Plan:

Payments

X The agency makes the following adjustments to payments currently covered in the State plan:

The State respectfully requests to extend the following provisions:

- 1. LT-PCS providers that were rendering LT-PCS on or after October 1, 2021 and employing direct services workers (DSWs) will receive the equivalent of a \$4.50 per hour rate increase.*
- 2. This increase, or its equivalent, will be applied to all units of service provided by DSWs on or after October 1, 2021.*
- 3. All LT-PCS providers affected by this rate increase must pass 70 percent of their rate increases directly to the DSW in the form of a minimum wage floor of \$9 per hour and in other wage and non-wage benefits. This wage floor and wage and non-wage benefits will apply to full-time and part-time DSWs.*
- 4. The LT-PCS provider rate increases, wage floor and/or wage and non-wage benefits will continue as part of the State's approved Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan authorized under Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, through March 31, 2025 or until the end of the PHE, whichever occurs first.*

Except as otherwise noted in the Plan, state-developed fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of long-term personal care services. All rates are published on the agency's website at www.lamedicaid.com