



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

MEMORANDUM

**TO: LOUISIANA HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED
SERVICE PROVIDERS**

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Ruth Johnson, the Medicaid Executive Director.

**FROM: RUTH JOHNSON, MEDICAID EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LDH, Bureau of Health Services Financing**

**CECILE CASTELLO, Deputy Assistant Secretary
LDH, Health Standards Section**

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Cecile Castello, the Deputy Assistant Secretary.

**RE: HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE PROVIDER
ISSUES**

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2020

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Governor Edwards declared a state of emergency in Louisiana, effective Friday, August 21, 2020, to Sunday, September 20, 2020, due to Tropical Storm Marco and Tropical Storm Laura, via Proclamation Number 108 JBE 2020. Tropical Storm Marco made landfall near New Orleans, Louisiana on or about August 24, 2020. Tropical Storm Laura strengthened into a Category 1 hurricane on August 25, 2020 and made landfall in southwest Louisiana a Category 4 hurricane on August 27, 2020. Considering the substantial impacts and effects of two tropical storms/hurricanes on the residents of Louisiana, and the need to coordinate care, services, treatment, and placement for evacuees, Louisiana will allow for the following current relief to licensed home- and community-based service providers (HBCSP):

A. PERSONS RECEIVING HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES:

A-1. A Louisiana Medicaid recipient receiving home- and community-based services in Louisiana may access such services outside of the person's geographic region or out of state, as the Louisiana Medicaid recipient has freedom of choice of any Medicaid enrolled HCBSP.

B. LICENSED HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE PROVIDERS:

B-1. Generally, a licensed HCBSP is limited to providing services in its geographic service area, defined as a multi-parish region. To ensure the health and safety of recipients, and to ensure coordination and continuation of services to recipients in Louisiana, for the next 35 days (from August 27, 2020 through September 30, 2020), the Louisiana Department of Health will allow a licensed HCBSP who provides personal care services and respite services¹ to operate and provide services to existing recipients who have evacuated outside of their home region to another location in Louisiana, under the following circumstances:

a. The recipient has evacuated or temporarily relocated to a location outside of the provider's licensed region due to the Tropical Storm Marco or Hurricane Laura;

b. The recipient must have been a client of the HCBSP as of August 27, 2020, with an approved plan of care;

c. The recipient's existing caregiver(s) go with the recipient or provide services to the recipient at the recipient's temporary location;

d. The HCBSP is responsible for ensuring that all essential care and services (as identified on the plan of care) are provided to the recipient (including having sufficient staff and back-up caregivers available to provide services); and

e. The HCBSP does not interfere with a recipient's right to choose a provider of his/her choice (that is, if a recipient wants to elect a new HCBSP in the area where the recipient relocates, then the HCBSP will facilitate that selection).

¹ This does not include center-based respite services; a center-based respite provider should contact the LDH Health Standards Section for further information should the center-based respite want to relocate out of its geographical service area.

B-2. Generally, a licensed HCBSP that provides supervised independent living services (SIL services) is limited to providing services in its geographic service area, defined as a multi-parish region. To ensure the health and safety of recipients, and to ensure coordination and continuation of services to recipients in Louisiana, for the next 35 days (from August 27, 2020 through September 30, 2020), the Louisiana Department of Health will allow a licensed HCBSP who provides SIL services to operate and provide SIL services to existing recipients who have evacuated outside of their home region to another location in Louisiana, under the following circumstances:

- a. The recipient has evacuated or temporarily relocated to a location outside of the provider's licensed region due to the Tropical Storm Marco or Hurricane Laura;
- b. The recipient must have been a client of the HCBSP as of August 27, 2020, with an approved plan of care;
- c. The HCBSP has sufficient and qualified staff to provide SIL services to the recipient at the recipient's temporary location;
- d. The HCBSP is responsible for ensuring that all essential SIL services (as identified on the plan of care) are provided to the recipient; and
- e. The HCBSP does not interfere with a recipient's right to choose a provider of his/her choice (that is, if a recipient wants to elect a new HCBSP in the area where the recipient relocates, then the HCBSP will facilitate that selection).

B-3. Please note that a HCBSP that wants to provides services to a recipient that has temporarily re-located out-of-state must contact that state's licensing/certification department to obtain any necessarily licensing and certification before providing services in that state.

C. MEDICAID VENDOR PAYMENTS

Note: This applies to clients/residents that have Louisiana Medicaid coverage.

C-1. Provided that the criteria of B-1 are met, a Medicaid-enrolled HCBSP can continue to submit claims to Louisiana Medicaid for the services

provided to Medicaid recipients who have temporarily relocated, for the period of August 27, 2020 through September 27, 2020.

C-2. Only one HCBSP may submit claims and be reimbursed by the Louisiana Medicaid Program for each Medicaid HBCS recipient for the same type of services for the same date of service.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If additional information is required regarding licensing issues, please contact the LDH Health Standards Section at (225) 342-4997.

If additional information is required regarding Medicaid vendor payments, please contact the LDH, Louisiana Medicaid, Provider Relations Department at 1-800-473-2783.