



Agency Provider Support Program NMT Fuel Cost Support extended October 1 - December 30, 2022

SUMMARY

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities (MCBDD) recognizes the significant impact the Direct Support Professional (DSP) shortage is having on the availability and the quality of services in the county. Consequently, many individuals in Medina County are going under served, with reduced services, or have services that are threatened to reduce or be eliminated due to a constant threat of limited or reducing DSPs. MCBDD believes it is critical to continue to offer an array of supports to providers through this staffing shortage crisis to ensure quality and necessary services are available to individuals. Pursuant to MCBDD's power under Ohio Revised Code §5126.05(C) and its duty to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of individuals served in Medina County, MCBDD will offer a time-limited provider support program or until a statewide plan is implemented.

This provider support program outlined herein and in MCBDD's agreement with providers is in lieu of a statewide plan that may eventually be offered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) independently or in collaboration with County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. MCBDD's support is temporary and will be reviewed, updated, and terminated as the staffing crisis evolves and hopefully improves in Medina County and the State of Ohio. It is also contingent on MCBDD's budgetary constraints and available funds. The federal government's Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) has repeatedly extended the pandemic's Public Health Emergency, which has altered funding and budgets as well as relaxed some regulations. MCBDD is maximizing these extensions and flexibilities to further extend supports to our providers, services, and those we serve. **Reimbursement supports outlined in this agreement are not included in Medicaid waiver rate models.**

MCBDD is sensitive to the negative impact inflated gas prices have had business sustainability. To ensure providers remain solvent, MCBDD is offering an additional temporary support program. Termination of MCBDD's Provider Support Program will be determined by the Superintendent based on local DD service needs and trends, MCBDD's budgetary abilities, or the development and implementation of a statewide plan administered by DODD.

No supports outlined in this MCBDD Provider Support Program is intended to supplement or reimburse any Medicaid services or rates.

Eligibility

Agency providers who provide Non-Medical Transportation (NMT) services, who were actively supporting individuals eligible for MCBDD services as of July 1, 2022, per a MCBDD written Individualized Service Plan (ISP), are eligible for consideration under this program. Eligible providers must submit a signed provider support program 'Agreement for Provider Assistance' form before accessing any financial assistance.

Eligible providers must continue to provide NMT services during the terms of this agreement to submit cost reimbursements. Any questions regarding the eligibility requirements, agreements, or reimbursement requests and documentation should contact Pam Hunt, Director of Community Development.

NMT Fuel Support

NMT services are significantly impacted and threatened by both a lack of drivers and the significant rise in fuel prices. To ensure NMT services continue to operate, MCBDD will reimburse the agency provider 25% of their monthly fuel expenses (excluding any taxes).

The expenses incurred and submitted for reimbursement must be for MCBDD ISP approved services, including the number of unduplicated individuals served for the corresponding month (each individual served should only be counted once per month), which the provider must attest to when submitting receipts or invoices for reimbursement.

Providers must submit documentation with the DSP's name, hours worked, the monthly retention bonus amount paid, and attest the DSP worked those scheduled hours in Medina County serving an individual served by an authorized MCBDD ISP.

This program will run from July 1, 2022- extended to December 30, 2022.