



Independent Provider Support Program HPC and NMT Grant Funds

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. The 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 the negative impact and threat the staffing shortage and inflated gas prices have had on quality service availability, the available workforce, and 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

Independent providers who provide **Homemaker Personal Care (HPC)** services and Non-Medical Transportation (NMT) services and 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 HPC and/or 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.

Independent Provider Support

Independent Providers (IP) who provide (HPC and transportation) support for individuals are significantly affected by the increased costs of supporting individuals in community settings. Such expenses can include increase fuel costs, entry to community events, and technology just to name a few. Eligible independent providers can request grant funds of the following:

1. IPs who work 39 hours or less for the month are eligible for a \$50 per month retention bonus
2. IPs who bill 40 hours or more for the month are eligible for a \$100 per month retention bonus

MCBDD will determine the hours worked for each IP based on claims billed for the time period of July through Sept. 2022. It is important that any outstanding billing claims for the time period of July through September 2022 must be submitted by November 9, 2022 to be considered for this program. No reports will be run after this date.

Independent providers must submit a request **and** a current W9 to receive the retention bonus. Payments cannot be processed without both documents received by MCBDD. **No requests will be considered after December 30, 2022.**

This retention bonus will be paid out as a one-time payment for the 3-month period listed above.