

**Cecile Erwin Young** *Executive Commissioner* 

Date: June 15, 2023

To: Home and Community-Based Services (HCS)

Texas Home Living (TxHmL)

Subject: Information Letter No. 2023-23 Attendant Compensation Rate

Enhancement Program Information for Individualized Skills and Socialization Services in the HCS and TxHmL Waiver Program

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) announces Open Enrollment for the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement Program in accordance with Title 1 of the Texas Administrative Code (1 TAC) Section 355.112.

The Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement program is a voluntary program for HHSC contracted providers delivering community care services and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Participating providers receive increased funding to incentivize increased compensation, including increased wages and benefits, for attendants. Participating providers agree to spend the increased funds to meet program spending requirements, or they will be subject to recoupment.

The state fiscal year 2024 open enrollment period is from July 1-31, 2023.

## Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement Enrollment Categories

Effective March 1, 2023, Individualized Skills and Socialization Services replaced Day Habilitation Services in the HCS and TxHmL waiver programs. HCS and TxHML waiver providers who wish to enroll in the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement program may choose to participate in three enrollment categories: individualized skills and socialization services (formerly day habilitation), non-individualized skills and socialization services (formerly non-day habilitation), and residential services. The individualized skills and socialization enrollment category will include in-home, on-site, and off-site individualized skills and socialization services. The non-individualized skills and socialization enrollment category includes community first choice personal attendant services, habilitation, HCS-supported home living transportation, TxHmL community support services transportation,

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employment assistance, supported employment, and in-home and out-of-home respite. The residential services enrollment category includes supervised living and residential support services.

Providers who are participating in the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement program for day habilitation services in 2023 will not have their day habilitation rate enhancement level automatically applied to their individualized skills and socialization services in 2024 because of billing increment differences between day habilitation services and individualized skills and socialization services. Providers who wish to participate in the program for individualized skills and socialization services category must enroll during the 2024 open enrollment period. To enroll, providers submit an Enrollment Contract Amendment (ECA) and select the appropriate enrollment categories for HHSC. Any provider who fails to submit an ECA indicating their revised enrollment for individualized skills and socialization services will be a non-participant in the individualized skills and socialization services category.

Providers who are participating in the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement program for non-day habilitation services and residential services in 2023 can choose to have their enrollment levels rollover to non-individualized skills and socialization (formerly non-day habilitation) and residential services categories in 2024, respectively. Providers can also request a different participation level by completing an ECA. Participation levels are awarded within available funds; therefore, a provider may not be awarded the requested level.

## **Attendant Compensation Rate Add-ons**

For the state fiscal year 2024, the Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement rate add-ons for HCS/TxHmL enrollment categories will be the following:

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Table 1. 2024 Attendant Compensation Rate Enhancement Rate Add-Ons.

Enrollment Category	Waiver Services	Add-on Amoun t per Unit	Unit Type	Participatio n Levels
Individualize d Skills and Socialization Services	<ul> <li>In-home, on-site, and off-site individualized skills and socialization</li> </ul>	\$ 0.05	Hourl y	25
Non- Individualize d Skills and Socialization Services	<ul> <li>Community first choice personal attendant services/habilitation</li> <li>HCS supported home living transportation</li> <li>TxHmL community support services transportation</li> <li>Employment assistance</li> <li>Supported employment</li> <li>In-home and out-of-home respite</li> </ul>	\$ 0.05	Hourl	25

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Enrollment Category	Waiver Services	Add-on Amoun t per Unit	Unit Type	Participatio n Levels
Residential Services	<ul><li>Supervised living</li><li>Residential support services</li></ul>	\$ 0.40	Daily	25

## **Enrollment Contract Amendment Instructions**

For state fiscal year 2024, enrollment will be open from July 1-31, 2023.

To request participation in the program or for an increase in participation level, providers must complete an online ECA by 5:00 p.m. on July 31, 2023. The ECA must be completed through the HHSC Open Enrollment Portal. No faxes, mail, or email submissions will be accepted. This letter does not include any forms. The ECA, all instructions, and worksheets will be available on the <a href="https://example.com/hHSC Provider FinanceDepartment">HHSC Provider FinanceDepartment</a> (PFD) Website by July 1, 2023.

## Resources

Please contact the HHSC Provider Finance, Long-term Services & Supports (LTSS) Center for Information and Training at <a href="https://provider.org/PFD-LTSS@hhs.texas.gov">PFD-LTSS@hhs.texas.gov</a> or (737) 867-7817 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Samuel West

Director of Provider Finance, for Long-term Services and Support