

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-14-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group

March 17, 2022

William Halsey, Interim Director
Division of Health Services
Department of Social Services
55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105

Dear Mr. Halsey:

We are writing to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving Connecticut's request to amend the following 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers with the Emergency Preparedness and Response Appendix K in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic:

WAIVER TITLE	CMS AMENDMENT CONTROL NUMBER
Home Care Program for Elders waiver	CT.0140.R07.03
Personal Care Assistance waiver	CT.0301.R05.05
Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) waiver	CT.0302.R05.01
Home and Community Supports Waiver for Persons with Autism	CT.0993.R01.04
Acquired Brain Injury II waiver	CT.1085.R01.04
Mental Health waiver	CT.0653.R02.04
Katie Beckett waiver	CT.4110.R08.01

The state's approved Appendix K is effective March 16, 2020 through six months after the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE) for COVID-19. The amendments that the state has requested in the Appendix K are additive to those previously approved; they apply in all locations served by the individual waivers for anyone impacted by COVID-19. CMS acknowledges effective April 1, 2021, the state will make stabilization payments to the specified waiver providers as identified within the Appendix K. Effective July 1, 2021, the state will make supplemental payments and rate increases for the identified waiver services and providers within the Appendix K. Also, effective August 1, 2021, the state will increase rates based on the state's minimum wage for the specified waiver services and providers as identified within the Appendix K.

The state has identified its intent to use money realized from section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Approval of this action does not constitute approval of the state's spending plan. The state must have an approved spending plan in order to use the money realized from section 9817 of the ARP.

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CMS notes the state has identified more phases to increase the state's minimum wage. CMS strongly urges the state to avoid using ARP funds to meet minimum wage in the future. Any additional requests to use these funds for this purpose will require significant review.

We have included the approved Appendix K pages with this correspondence. Please utilize the waiver management system for HCBS waivers for any further amendments to these waiver programs other than the Appendix K.

If you need assistance, feel free to contact Daphne Hicks of my staff at 214-767-6471 or by e-mail at Daphne.Hicks@cms.hhs.gov or Marge Sciulli at 410-786-0691 or by e-mail at Margherita.Sciulli@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Alissa Mooney DeBoy
Director, DEHPG

Enclosure