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To: ASAPs and Home Care Providers in the EOEA Home Care Program
From: Rachel Goldstein, Chief Financial Officer, EOEA
Date: April 15, 2020
RE: Spending Plan Requirement for FY19 Supplemental Budget Implementation

This memorandum explains changes to EOEA's *Provider Implementation Memo* dated February 14, 2020.

EOEA received an appropriation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) Supplemental Budget (Chapter 142 of the Acts of 2019) for \$10M to increase wages, compensation, and salary-related costs for direct care workers providing Homemaker, Personal Care, and Home Health Aide services. Of the total funding amount, \$4.1M is dedicated to direct care workers providing Homemaker or Personal Care services, and \$5.9M is dedicated to direct care workers providing Home Health Aide services. The FY19 supplemental budget further specifies that providers receiving the add-on amount must submit a spending plan to EOEA that accounts for how they will utilize those funds across all specified services. These legislative requirements remain unchanged.

Thank you to all of our partners – including ASAPs, trade organizations, and home care providers – for your efforts to date related to the implementation of the FY19 Supplemental Budget. Your commitment to this initiative is helping the network comply with the requirements of the legislation and is bringing significant added financial support to home care aides across the state.

EOEA recognizes the impact of this additional funding on the 20,000+ home care aides who provide critical in-home services for older adults. The COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified existing financial pressures on all providers and their employees. In order to help providers and their employees in this unprecedented time, **EOEA is removing its policy requirement that providers must submit a spending plan to receive the add-on funding, and is directing all ASAPs to execute contract amendments with all relevant providers regardless of whether the provider has submitted a spending plan.** ASAPs should proceed with executing contract amendments using the standard contract amendment template. At this time, EOEA believes this is in the best interest of our consumers, providers, and home care aides.

Please note that the legislative requirements remain unchanged; the legislature is still requiring that providers submit a spending plan accounting for how they will utilize the funds. All providers are still expected to comply with this requirement. However, EOEA will not be withholding access to the add-on based on any provider's spending plan submission status.

Thank you to all the providers who submitted their spending plans timely. For remaining providers, please proceed with submitting your spending plan as soon as possible. The spending plan must be submitted electronically, and can be accessed at: <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/1468956/1463/>. Please also visit our website at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/eoea-and-masshealth-fy19-supplemental-budget-implementation> for the *Provider Implementation Memo, Attachment B: Provider Spending Plan Completion Guide* for field by field instructions and examples for how to complete the spending plan.

If you have any additional questions, please email us at FY19SupplementalBudget@mass.gov. This email inbox continues to be monitored, but responses may be delayed.