



Guidance on DDS Payments for Community Based Day Support Program Closures Following the February 2026 Winter Storm

March 30, 2026

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is issuing this guidance to explain payments that will be made to eligible providers of Community Based Day Support services affected by the blizzard that impacted Massachusetts starting on February 22nd, 2026.

Background

The February 2026 blizzard caused significant service disruptions in several areas of the Commonwealth. Some Community Based Day Support programs experienced closures that extended beyond the types of weather-related interruptions that normally occur during winter storms. To help address the financial impacts of these unusual and prolonged disruptions, DDS will make one-time limited payments to eligible providers in the areas most significantly affected.

Purpose of the Payment

These payments are intended to provide partial financial support to eligible providers whose programs faced extended closures because of the storm. DDS will pay 50% of the average daily billing amount for eligible closure days. This percentage reflects the state-share of funding that DDS normally would have incurred if services had been delivered. Because these closure-related payments are not Medicaid reimbursable, DDS cannot pay the full-service rate. DDS is limiting these payments to closures that extended after Monday February 23rd and are located in the counties most significantly impacted by this historic storm.

Payment Methodology

A provider is eligible for this payment only if the Community Based Day Support program is located in one of the following counties impacted by Executive Order 652 & 653 banning non-essential travel:

- Plymouth County
- Bristol County
- Barnstable County
- Dukes County

DDS will reimburse eligible providers at 50% of the average daily billing for the contract for each eligible closure day. Payment will be issued for every day the program was closed after Monday, February 23, 2026.

Provider Action Required

- Submit February 2026 attendance in EIM no later than Friday April 3rd.
 - Do not submit attendance for days when the program was closed
- Providers do not need to submit an invoice to receive this payment.

Payment Process

Using the provider's EIM billing data for February and prior months, DDS will determine both the number of days that the program was closed and the provider's average daily billing amount. DDS will issue the payment directly through the provider's contract. DDS expects these payments to be disbursed in mid-April 2026.