



FY22 ARPA RATE ENHANCEMENTS RATE IMPLEMENTATION FOR SHARED LIVING PROGRAMS OCTOBER 22, 2021

This guidance document will summarize the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) process for implementing rate increases for Shared Living programs (3150 / 3752) promulgated in *101 CMR 447.00: Rates for Certain Home- and Community-based Services Related to Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act*.

DDS will be establishing Shared Living contracts based on enhanced rates promulgated in *101 CMR 447* beginning and retroactive to July 1, 2021.

I. Implementation Process

Implementation of enhanced rates for Shared Living requires updating the operational tier, stipend, and add-on rates in ICMS for all individuals and re-computing contract blended rates. DDS will be making these updates throughout the remainder of October and distributing updated ICMS reports to providers by mid-November.

Once new blended rates have been computed, DDS will enter updated rates in EIM retroactively to July 1, 2021 and re-adjudicate all attendance that has been paid to-date. Providers will be reimbursed at these new rates going forward.

Due to ARPA timelines for enhanced waiver claiming, ***it is critical that providers bill promptly every month and do not hold supplemental billing until later in the fiscal year.*** Providers must submit Service Delivery Reports no later than 30 days after the end of the month.

At this time DDS will not be making amendments to contracts to add funds or to incorporate other non-ARPA related changes in to contracts (i.e. changes to tier/stipend levels, add-ons, add/removing individuals). Additionally, DDS will not request that providers update and sign new Service Summary Forms. Service Summary Forms will be updated at a later date when DDS makes funding adjustments to these contracts.

II. Reporting & Allowable Use of Funds

Per the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), these rate enhancements are aimed at strengthening and stabilizing the state's HCBS workforce in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Providers will be required to use at least 90% of enhanced funds for compensation for their direct care workforce.

As a condition of receipt of these additional funds, eligible provider agencies must complete an attestation assuring EOHHS that they will use at least 90% of the funds for HCBS workforce development, which could include hiring and retention bonuses and other categories of worker compensation. Additionally, provider agencies that receive enhanced funds are required to submit a spending report to EOHHS that accounts for how the enhanced funds were used.

For Shared Living programs, ***100% of the value of rate enhancements for caregiver stipends must be paid to the caregiver.*** Providers may reference the ICMS report for new total stipend values for each caregiver. These payments will count towards the overall 90% requirement for compensation for direct care workforce.

For additional information regarding attestations and allowable use of funds please reference [EOHHS guidance](#) and the [EOHHS ARPA website](#).