



## State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Governor*

SPENCER J. COX  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## Department of Human Services

ANN SILVERBERG WILLIAMSON  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Services for People with Disabilities

ANGELLA D. PINNA  
*Director*

#### Individuals in Services and Family Members,

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) on March 18, 2020. The FFCRA included an increased federal Medicaid match that is effective beginning January 1, 2020, and ending on the last day of the quarter when the Federal emergency is declared over (June 30, 2020, at the earliest). Proposed funding enhancements are being advanced proactively throughout DHS and in partnership with Medicaid to support the following changes in DSPD services:

#### **Assistive Technology for Telehealth**

- Allows individuals to purchase devices that facilitate coordination and use of services through telehealth. We will gather information through a form to connect the individual with the technology that will best meet their needs. To make a request, work with your Support Coordinator to access and fill out the following forms:
  - Assistive Technology Device Request Form: Request for a tablet device capable of video conferencing for telehealth use and other assistive technology equipment as needed
  - Assistive Technology Equipment and Installation Request Form: Request for assessment and installation of equipment. The assessment may include equipment such as sensors, door alarms, or other smart home technology. Assessment and installation may be completed by a vendor or traditional provider if needed.

#### **Purchase of COVID-19 Related Supplies**

- PPE Request Form: Allows individuals to request PPE items including masks, gloves, bleach, disinfectant wipes, and thermometers. Disbursement of supplies is subject to availability and funding. To make a request, work with your Support Coordinator to access and fill out the forms.

Note: Once requests are submitted, DSPD will complete purchases. Equipment will be delivered to the address DSPD has on record unless otherwise specified by the Support Coordinator in the form. Please work with your Support Coordinator to make sure that your address is up to date.



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### Caregiver Compensation

- Legally responsible caregivers, parents, spouses, and guardians may provide supported living (SL1) and personal assistance (PA1) through the self-directed service model through June 30, 2020.
- Caregivers may provide no more than 40 hours of service per week.
- The specific guidance on how to get set-up to utilize this temporary option is outlined in the [Caregiver Compensation Guidance](#).

### Costs Related to School Closures

- Allows for an increase in Supported Living units and individual residential rates during the time the school district is closed to meet the needs of children in services. Your Support Coordinator can help you request additional funds to meet your needs. Information is also available on the [DHS Provider COVID-19 FAQ](#) under the Additional DSPD Specific section.

### Reimbursement Rate Increase

- A proposed rate increase for all services with a direct care staff component to cover emergency-related expenses that include:
  - Overtime payments
  - Recognition pay for frontline staff
  - Additional expenses incurred by providers
- The rate increase will be applied between 4/1/2020 and 6/30/2020 through a rollover occurring April 30, 2020. Specific details of the rollover will be provided in USTEPS emails throughout the month.

We will continue to provide information on changes in the DSPD system in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as details become available. Thank you for your partnership.

Angie Pinna

Division of Services for People with Disabilities

Our Mission is to Promote Opportunities and Provide Supports for Persons with Disabilities to Lead Self-Determined Lives.

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