

2021

## December 23: FY21 DSP Wage Increase

Effective January 1, 2021, funding that was included in the FY2021 Appropriations Act for a direct support professional (DSP) wage increase will be implemented by the Division through an increase to the fee-for-service rates for eight services: Career Planning, Community Based Supports, Community Inclusion Services, Day Habilitation, Individual Supports, Prevocational Training, Respite and Supported Employment. Providers are required to pass through the increased FFS rates as a wage increase for all DSPs. Please see the Quick Guide and FAQs below.

- [Quick Guide to FY2021 FFS Rate Increases](#)
- [FAQs: FY2021 DSP Wage Increase](#)

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## July 9: Important Update for All Congregate Day and Residential Service Providers

In accordance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule, all HCBS must be delivered in settings that are integrated in, and support full access to, their community. This includes opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive settings within the community, engage in a community life, control personal resources, and receive services in a similar way as individuals who do not receive HCBS.

An updated site-specific [HCBS Criteria Survey](#) is required to be conducted for each existing residential and day setting to determine compliance with the HCBS Final Rule. To assist you with survey completion, the Division has developed [HCBS Criteria Survey FAQs](#).

Please send any questions to the HCBS Helpdesk: [DDD.HCBShelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.HCBShelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov).

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## April 15: Guide to Self-Directed Services in NJ and the Role of the Supports Broker

We are pleased to share a new guide developed by The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, in collaboration with the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities, the NJ Collaborative for Citizen Directed Supports, and people with disabilities and families, [Understanding Self-Directed Services in New Jersey and the Role of the Supports Broker](#). The Boggs Center also has a [Spanish version](#) available. Thank you to everyone who participated in this project!

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## April 13: RFP for Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes

The Division is pleased to announce the availability of funding through a new Request for Proposals, [RFP: Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#).

Funding will be awarded to a single entity to develop three, four-bedroom behavioral health stabilization homes for individuals with IDD. (Smaller variations may be proposed so long as the total number of beds provided is twelve.) Proposal Submission Deadline is July 2, 2021.

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April 1: Transition Webinar for 2021 Graduates

The Division is pleased to share the archived webinar, [Transition Into Adulthood: Information about DDD Services for the 2021 Graduates](#).

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March 4: EVV Webinar for Providers

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) is a new federal requirement for certain in-home DDD-funded services. Agencies can review the recorded webinar, [Electronic Visit Verification Provider Information](#) for an overview of this new requirement.