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To: County Department of Human Services Directors
County Department of Social Services Directors
County Department of Community Programs Directors
Long-Term Support Supervisors and Leads

From: James Jones, Medicaid Director
Division of Medicaid Services

**Implementation of Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program
Statewide Uniform Rates**

Purpose

This memo provides information and resources for effectuating the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program statewide uniform rate schedule.

Background

Rates for CLTS waiver services have historically been negotiated between county waiver agencies (CWAs) and providers.

The CLTS Rate-Setting Initiative was the result of a corrective action plan issued by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which required the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to develop statewide uniform rates for in-scope CLTS services. Uniform rates contribute to statewide consistency for providers of waiver services in Wisconsin; transparency in established rates; program standardization; and the promotion of service-specific outcomes.

Statewide Uniform Rates

The following waiver service categories are subject to the statewide rate schedule:

- Adult family home
- Child care
- Community integration services
- Counseling and therapeutic services
- Daily living skills training
- Day services
- Financial management services
- Mentoring
- Respite
- Support and service coordination
- Supported employment
- Supportive home care
- Transportation

Some benefit categories include subcategories that are not included in the rate schedule (for example, respite camps, bus passes, parking, etc.). Any service not included in the uniform rate schedule is

purchased at the market rate. While most CLTS services are included in the statewide rate schedule, the rate methodology primarily sets rates for services with a direct caregiver component.

The rates in the CLTS rate schedule represent the maximum amounts that can be paid for each service unit without an outlier rate. County waiver agencies are prohibited from negotiating rates with providers for services included in the statewide uniform rate schedule. Services may be paid at lower rates when the service provider's usual and customary cost, the amount the provider charges to the general public, is lower than the amount in the CLTS rate schedule.

Resources

DHS has published a variety of materials to guide and support CWAs as they change to uniform rates.

Two documents will be necessary to develop authorizations according to the uniform rate schedule:

- [Children's Long-Term Support \(CLTS\) Waiver Program Rate Schedule, P-02184](#)
- [Children's Long-Term Support \(CLTS\) Waiver Program Benefit Code Crosswalk, P-02283](#)

Two documents will be necessary for determining care levels for respite and supportive home services:

- [Care Level Classification Guidelines, P-02273](#)
- [Care Level Classification Form, F-02467](#)

Additional information and supporting materials (such as updated [service descriptions](#)) are available on the [DHS Rate-Setting Initiative](#) webpage.

Effective Date

Statewide uniform rates for the CLTS Waiver Program went into effect on July 1, 2019.

Implementation of System Validation

Effective July 1, 2020 statewide uniform rates for the CLTS Waiver Program are automated. Submitted authorizations will be validated against the [CLTS Waiver Program Rate Schedule, P-02184](#) by the Third-Party Administrator (TPA). Authorizations that do not conform to statewide uniform rates will be denied.

Assistance

CWAs are encouraged to direct TPA automation and authorization questions to the Wisconsin Physician Service (WPS) CLTS Customer Service Call Center at 877-298-1258. CWAs should direct rate-setting operational questions to their DHS [technical assistance lead](#).