



ODP Announcement

Delay in Transportation Trip Changes and Employment Credentials and Certificates

ODP Communication Number 102-18

The mission of the Office of Developmental Programs is to support Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence, choice and opportunity in their lives.

AUDIENCE: Individuals and Families; Providers of Transportation Trip, Community Participation Support, Supported Employment or Small Group Employment; Organized Health Care Delivery Systems; All parties involved in the delivery of participant-directed services; Administrative Entities; Supports Coordination Organizations

PURPOSE: The purpose of this communication is to inform all impacted parties that there will be a delay in the implementation of some changes approved in the Consolidated, Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) and Community Living Waivers.

DISCUSSION: Amendments to the Consolidated, P/FDS and Community Living Waivers were recently approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) effective November 1, 2018. This communication is regarding the following two changes in the amendments that were scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2019:

1. Transportation Trip was to transition from a cost-based rate to a fee schedule rate; and
2. As part of qualification requirements, staff were to complete the Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) credential, Basic Employment Services Certificate of Achievement or a Professional Certificate of Achievement in Employment Services certification for certain employment services and components of Community Participation Support.

Transportation Trip Changes

Implementation of the changes to Transportation Trip will be delayed until July 1, 2019. This delay includes all of the following changes associated with transitioning Transportation Trip from a cost-based service to a fee schedule service:

- Changes to the number of miles covered in each zone designation;
- Expanding the service to be provided by relatives, legal guardians and Organized Health Care Delivery Systems; and
- Expanding the service to be self-directed through the Agency With Choice or Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent participant-directed services models.

These changes are not to be included in a person's Individual Support Plan effective January 1, 2019.

As part of the amendment process, the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) released the proposed fee schedule rates for public comment and made adjustments to the rates based on comments received. ODP then released the adjusted rates and recently heard that the rates have the potential to create an access issue for the Transportation Trip service. As a result, more time is needed to implement all changes to the Transportation Trip service to make further adjustments to the fee schedule rates.

ODP has submitted an amendment to CMS to maintain the Transportation Trip service definition and cost-based rate methodology in its current approved state with no changes effective January 1, 2019. This means that until July 1, 2019, there will be no changes to the miles covered under each zone designation, no changes to rates, nor will there be changes to the providers that can render trip services. Please see the attached side-by-side for changes made to the waivers to maintain Transportation Trip in its current state until July 1, 2019.

ACRE and CESP Certifications for Employment Providers

ODP has received feedback that providers are struggling to have all required staff complete the Basic Employment Services Certificate of Achievement or Professional Certificate of Achievement in Employment Services prior to the pending January 1, 2019 deadline. This is a criterion in the current approved Consolidated, P/FDS and Community Living Waivers for providers to be qualified to render Supported Employment, Small Group Employment and prevocational skill development in Community Participation Support effective January 1, 2019. The requirement for staff to have one of the following will be **delayed until July 1, 2019**:

- Hold a Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) credential from the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), or
- Have been awarded a Basic Employment Services Certificate of Achievement or a Professional Certificate of Achievement in Employment Services from an Association of

Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) organizational member that has ACRE-approved training.

It is imperative that all impacted providers and common law employers that have staff who are required to have one of these employment credentials or certificates start the process now if they have not already done so. There will be no further delays granted in implementation of this qualification criteria.

ODP is drafting another set of amendments to the Consolidated, P/FDS and Community Living Waivers that will be effective July 1, 2019. Both the changes to transition Transportation Trip to a fee schedule rate and the delay of the qualification criteria regarding employment credentials and certificates discussed in this communication will be included in those amendments with other proposed changes. ODP anticipates that the proposed amendments will be released for public comment in February or March of 2019.

All other changes contained in the waiver amendments effective November 1, 2018 remain effective and must be followed. The current approved waivers can be accessed [here](#).

CONTACT: Questions about this communication should be directed to the appropriate Office of Developmental Programs Regional Office.