



**Alliance for the Betterment of  
Citizens with Disabilities**

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**Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies**

Day Program Supplemental to be Decreased by Half  
Starting January 1, 2022

To ensure programs, services, and a community for people to return to after Covid, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) continued to pay day programs the appropriated State share of Medicaid payments based on pre-pandemic service levels. But no one could predict the full impact of Covid. Between individuals nervous about going back to congregate day programs until the pandemic is over and the lack of available staff, returning to pre-Covid services is taking much longer and is far more complicated than imagined. Nevertheless, DDD has a fiduciary responsibility to remain within its budget.

Though we are relieved that DDD chose not to discontinue the total supplemental, a sudden drop by half to 25% in 6.5 weeks, especially as we head into the winter months when fears of exposure to Covid-19 increase and attendance is normally down, does not give agencies ample time to plan and adjust. The most expeditious and expedient option of cutting salaries and benefits, may not necessarily be the wisest. Staff reductions will shrink programs and leave fewer opportunities to increase revenue.

**The supplemental continues to preserve our workforce and, by extension, community programs**

We understand that 93% of day programs are open, providing some level or form of service to 77% of people compared to pre pandemic numbers. Billing is based on units of service or unit usage and not the number of people served.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, comparing current unit usage each month to pre-Covid monthly unit usage would enable DDD to have a more complete understanding of service utilization and how it is trending. This analysis could factor into a new supplemental percentage each month instead of the proposed inflexible percentage for the remainder of the fiscal year.<sup>2</sup>

**Decisions must be based on relevant and current data.**

Whether we like it or not...

**A day program rate increase in effect for 7 weeks does not magically transform an historically under resourced system amid a staffing crisis and pandemic to one which is no longer at risk**

November 17, 2021

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<sup>1</sup> For example, an agency may have 1 program opened with all 100 participants receiving live or virtual services. If these 100 participants are receiving 50% of the service amount, they received pre-COVID, then utilization, for our purposes, is 50%, not 100%.

<sup>2</sup> NJ DDD, *Temporary Day and Residential Funding*, 11/17/21. Unless it becomes clear that amounts for the supplemental are not available due to increased spending in individual budgets this payment may end sooner. In this case, 30-day notice will be provided.