



Carver County CDCS Newsletter Summer/Fall 2023

Legislative Updates

Beginning 7/1/2023:

Holidays:

- Floating Holidays have been eliminated
- 3 NEW designated holidays (Independence Day, Veterans Day, Juneteenth)
- Holidays Already designated (New Year's Day, MLK, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving)
- Staff must be paid 1.5x current wage when working on any of these holidays

Federal Mileage Rate:

- Maximum 65.5 cents per mile

TEFRA for Minors:

- The MN 2023 Legislation eliminated the parental fee for the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) program.
- Specifics for how families will be impacted will come from DHS or you can call the DHS parental fee unit at 651-431-3806.
- Counties have had clarification that money owed before 7/1/2023 still needs to be paid.

Overall Budget Increase (effective 1/1/2024)

- Increase of 8.49%
- Likely will not be enough to cover the minimum wage/PTO increase.

Beginning 1/1/2024 (or 30 days after federal approval, whichever is later):

Minimum Wage:

- Increases from \$15.25 (currently) to \$19.00/hour.
- May write in CDCS renewals with language of upon federal approval or wait to make changes till 1/1/2024 (upon federal approval)

PPOM/Spouse Maximum Wage:

Increases to \$23.80/hour based on RCA rate going up on 1/24/2024. Exact rate still to be determined.

Maximum Hours PPOM/Spouse can work:

- Increase from 40 hours/week to 80 hours/week when more than one parent is providing service
- Single parent households increase total number of hours/week to 60 hours/week

Participant must still meet criteria and have assessed need for increase. Goals in CDCS CSP must reflect the increase to support the person's needs. The State-Set-Budget must also be able to support increased hours.

Retention Bonus:

- One bonus available (\$575) if eligible between January 1, 2024, and March 15, 2024
- More information to come

PTO/Sick and Safe:

- Statewide ALL Staff must have access to PTO or Sick and Safe paid time off
- People will no longer be able to opt out of PTO
- People will accumulate 1 hour for every 30 hours worked.
- PTO rate to be determined

Important Updates & Reminders

Community Participation:

CDCS cannot cover community classes/activities are not adaptive. If a class/activity is not adaptive and available to the general public, CDCS cannot cover the cost. The class itself is not related to the disability and the benefits of attending would be the same for anyone, regardless of ability. CDCS CAN cover services to support a person to transport them, accompany them to class, assist with participation, etc.

Goods and Services:

DHS has provided new direction on certain good and services. There may be services or goods that were previously approved but no longer will be approved based on this direction. *Some good and services may still be getting approved in other counties that have not yet gotten the same DHS Direction.*

Waiver funds cannot be used to pay for goods typically approved by Medical Assistance (e.g. diapers, mobility devices, etc.). These items will not be considered until after the item has been denied by medical assistance and in some cases appealed through medical assistance.

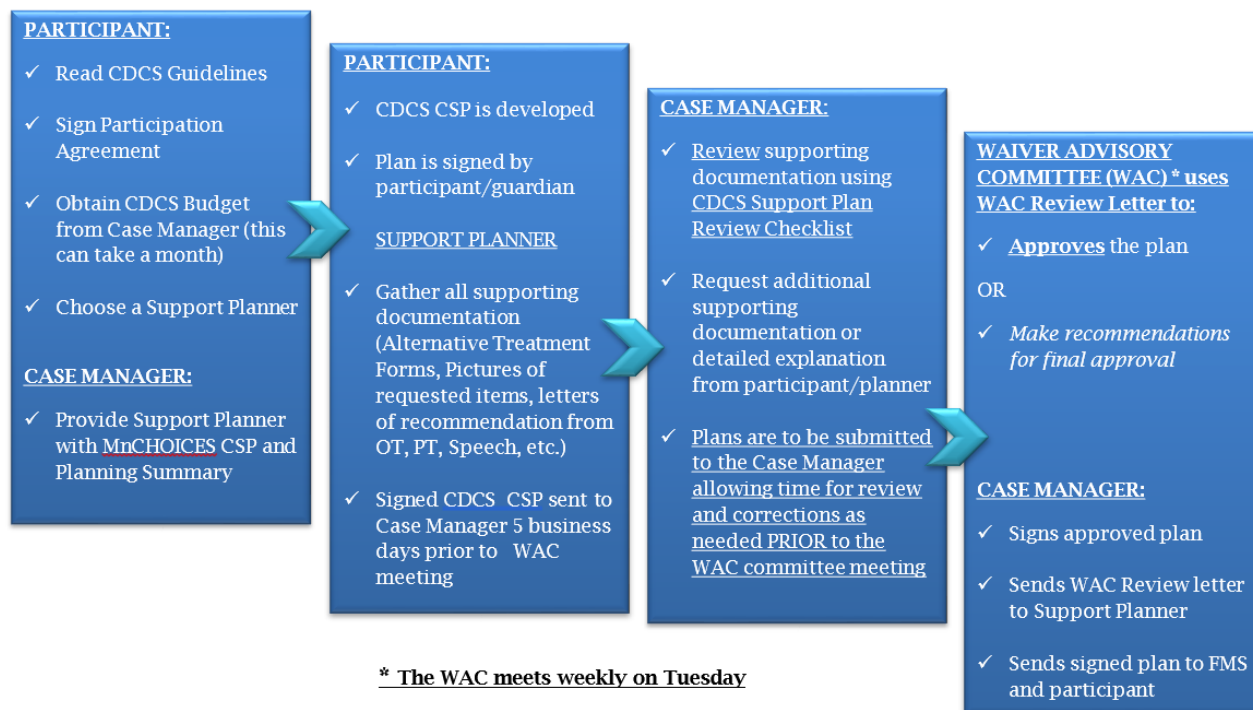
- Mobility Devices (e.g.) wheelchairs, strollers, etc.) are typically approved through medical assistance. Additional mobility devices cannot be purchased for the sole purpose of being able to travel on uneven terrain. Other adaptations to the current mobility device can be considered (e.g. wheel attachments)
- Adapted bikes may only be purchased with CDCS funds if it allows the person to independently ride the bike or to make the bike usable for that person. Waiver funds are unable to purchase bikes for the purpose of going on a bike ride as this is a recreational activity and the waiver cannot fund recreational activities.

Waiver funds cannot be used to approve electric bikes or bikes with pedal assist. This would be considered an upgrade and would be the person or parent's responsibility to pay for the electric portion of the bike.

A letter of recommendation is required from an expert such as a Physical Therapist or Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) to assess the person for a specific modification of a bike and its dimensions and features.

CDCS Process

The Carver County Waiver Advisory Committee (WAC) meets every Tuesday of each month to review initial plans, annual renewals, and revised addendums.



Addendums/Changes to Plans:

The following changes require only an email to the case manager for approval (include Support Planner in all communication):

- Moving unallocated funds or funds between items/services that are already approved.
- Correction of Fiscal fees on an initial plan or renewal.
- Use of COLA increase for items/services already approved in the plan
- If increasing Paid Parent of Minor (PPOM), Paid Spouse, or staffing, provide an updated schedule as well. Include justification for additional support needed.

Requests for New Addendum Items:

- New items must be approved by Waiver Advisory Committee.
- New items cannot be requested in the last 30 days of the service plan *unless* needed to maintain health and safety.