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Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 3:59 PM

To: AHS - VDH Childrens Personal Care Svs <AHS.VDHChildrensPersonalCareSvs@vermont.gov>

Subject: UPDATES to Children's Personal Care Services COVID changes

Good afternoon,

I am writing with some updates and clarifications about the temporary changes to Children's Personal Care Services (CPCS).

Please help us share these updates by forwarding this email to families, providers, special educators, and other community partners as you see fit. Thank you!

- CPCS COVID payments are subject to income tax reporting:
 - After reviewing information provided by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS), it was determined there is insufficient basis for classifying the CPCS COVID payments as “difficulty of care” payments.
 - This means CPCS COVID payments must be reported as income by participating parents.
 - ARIS Solutions will issue participants the necessary tax forms by January 31, 2021.
 - The program has updated the summary guidance document (see: attached) to include this information; the full guidance document, as well as updates to the translated versions, will be posted online soon.
- CPCS COVID payments must be reported on unemployment insurance claims:
 - Although these payments are not a form of employment, the Vermont Dept. of Labor has determined they fit the definition of “wages” and must be reported on unemployment claims.
 - Parents with questions about how to report the payments should contact [VT DOL](#).
- REMINDERS:
 - The Economic Services Division of DCF has determined the CPCS COVID payments are excludable for families accessing the benefits they administer, such as General Assistance, ReachUp, and 3Squares.
 - For those of you scratching your heads – like me – at “excludable,” this means COVID payments will not affect a families eligibility for these benefits.
 - CPCS COVID payments cannot be made to Developmental Services home providers, nor to DCF foster parents. Both groups are considered to be paid providers.
- ARIS:
 - CPCS families will continue to receive copies of the COVID Payment and Parent/Child Forms, as well as the summary guidance document (see attached) with their bi-weekly spending reports from ARIS.
 - It was noted that a copy of the summary guidance document was not included in the most recent round of spending reports; they will be going forward.
 - Some participants have submitted additional forms to access their child's full weekly allocation for past pay cycles when they had only requested partial payment the first time around.

- This is allowable so long as the total amount paid not exceed the child's weekly allocation of medically necessary CPCS over the course of a 2-week pay cycle.
 - For auditing purposes, ARIS is seeking the program's approval before processing these payments.
- CPCS Applications:
 - The program has granted extensions to prevent lapses for individuals whose service authorizations were due to expire in April, May, June, and July.
 - As many of you know, new applications are still being reviewed and families can still request a reapplication, especially if there has been a change to their child's underlying need for CPCS.
 - Whenever possible, we are asking assessors to use a video chat platform to conduct the observation component of the application process.
 - If this is not possible, please document the attempt and/or the reasons why on pg. 18 of the CPCS Intake (section H. *Description of Direct Evaluation*).
 - Timeline:
 - We have received questions about how long these payments will be available to parents.
 - This waiver was granted with federal authority and will be in place for the duration of the public health emergency, as declared by the federal government.
 - We will communicate in writing, via email, and through our website when we know more about what this means.
 - Governor Scott's emergency declaration, while extremely important to the delivery of home and community-based services in VT, does not affect the CPCS COVID payments.

It's hard to believe it was snowing less than 2 weeks ago when it's so nice out. I hope you all enjoy the holiday weekend in some way. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the program with any questions.

Best, Adam

[Visit our website for information about changes to Children's Personal Care Services](#)

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