



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

JOYCE MASSEY-SMITH, MPA •
Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services

DAAS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. 20-05

TO: Certified ADC/ADH Providers
Area Agency on Aging Directors
County Department of Social Services' Directors
County Department of Social Services' Adult Services Supervisors

FROM: Joyce Massey-Smith

DATE: March 26, 2020

RE: Reimbursement for ADC/ADH services through Home and Community Block Grant, State Adult Day Care Fund and State In-Home Fund

Thank you for the work you are doing in the face of this unprecedented public health emergency.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), recognizes that many certified ADC/ADH providers are closing programs to participants in an attempt to protect those most at risk of severe illness if infected. Further, we recognize that these closures will be detrimental to many providers and may result in long-term negative financial affects and/or some providers closing permanently.

DHHS recommends that people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 stay at home to the extent possible to decrease the chance of infection. On March 22, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated who is at **high risk** for severe illness. People at high risk include anyone who:

- Is 65 years of age or older
- Lives in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Has a high-risk condition that includes:
 - chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - heart disease with complications
 - compromised immune system
 - severe obesity - body mass index (BMI) of 40 or higher
 - other underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as diabetes, renal failure or liver disease

In an attempt to mitigate the financial repercussions for Adult Day Services providers due to closures related to COVID-19, DAAS is authorizing providers to bill based on the daily participant count as of March 10, 2020 effective until June 30, 2020.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Billing may be charged to the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG), State Adult Day Care Fund (SADCF) and State In-Home Fund. Billing must be based on the daily participant count as of March 10, 2020. This policy will apply to currently certified programs only. For providers who remain open but have reduced attendance may bill for the total participant count on March 10, 2020. Providers will not be able to request reimbursement beyond the current budgeted amount for each funding source.

Providers are required, at a minimum, to conduct a daily telephone wellness check with all enrolled participants, document the results, and seek assistance from local and state resources as needs arise.

In order to ensure that the funds are reimbursed properly, it is imperative that the scheduled days of attendance are listed on each participant's service plan in his/her record and that the fund paying for each of the scheduled days of attendance is clearly identified on each service plan per North Carolina Adult Day Care/Day Health Services Standards for Certification.

Depending on the fund source, the reimbursement is submitted through ARMS (Aging Resource Management System) for Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) or through SIS (Services Information System) for State Adult Day Care Fund and State In-Home Fund. It will be necessary to enter all applicable days covered by this temporary policy into the appropriate system(s).

It is the intent of DHHS and DAAS that this assistance will provide some measure of support to providers as we all attempt to navigate the unique circumstances that COVID-19 has brought to all of the citizens of North Carolina. The Division will be in contact with Adult Day Services Providers, County Departments of Social Services, and Area Agencies on Aging should conditions change to warrant additional action.

If you have questions or need guidance to implement this temporary policy, please contact Heather Carter at Heather.Carter@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-855-3416 or Glenda Artis at Glenda.Artis@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-855-3412.

JMS/HC/GA/pg