PART III

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
for
COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT WAIVER PROGRAM CHAPTER 1300-3900



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

DIVISION of MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PLANS

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Policy Revision Record
from 2024 to Current[1]

REVISION DATE	SECTION	REVISION DESCRIPTION	REVISION TYPE	CITATION
			A=Added **D**=Deleted **M**=Modified	(Revision required by Regulation, Legislation, etc.)
7/1/2026	2001 2002.2.3.3.5.	Added detail regarding examples of activities which constitute as Community Access	A	N/A
7/1/2026	2002.2.12	Added detail regarding transportation requirements for Community Access Services	A	N/A
7/1/2026	2303	Updated Licensure information to reflect changes from DCH oversight of Community Living Arrangement licensure to DBHDD oversight as a result of 2025 legislation (HB-584)	M	Revision required by legislation
7/1/2026	2903.2	Clarification that nursing notes may be maintained in an electronic format in the individual's record.	M	N/A
7/1/2026	3102.6.1.1	Updated Licensure information to reflect changes from DCH oversight of Community Living Arrangement licensure to DBHDD oversight as a result of 2025 legislation (HB-584)		Revision required by legislation
7/1/2026	3802.10	Updated Licensure information to reflect changes from DCH oversight of Community Living Arrangement licensure to DBHDD oversight as a result of 2025 legislation (HB-584)	M	Revision required by legislation
7/1/2026	3902.10	Updated Licensure information to reflect changes from DCH oversight of Community Living Arrangement licensure to DBHDD oversight as a result of 2025 legislation (HB-584)	M	Revision required by legislation
7/1/2026	Appendix A	Updated Appendix A to align with service units and limits for Community Access and Prevocational Services	M	N/A
4/1/2026	2905.1.1	Clarified age requirement language for recipients of Nursing Services.	M	N/A

[1] The revisions outlined in this Table are from 2024 to current. For revisions prior to 2024, please see prior versions of the policy.

4/1/2026	3101 & 3106	Removed antiquated references to child caring institutions.	D	N/A
1/1/2026	3001	Clarified prevocational employment language and requirements.	M	N/A
1/1/2026	3002.8, 3002.8.1.3, 3002.8.1.4	Clarified prevocational employment requirements.	M	N/A
1/1/2026	3702.4.5	Deleted administrative billing language from Assistive Technology chapter.	D	N/A
10/1/2025	1802.1.2	Clarified Positive Behavioral Supports Level 1 provider supervision.	M	N/A
10/1/2025	2001	Clarified the preclusion of vocational/employment activities/training under Community Access Services.	M	N/A
10/1/2025	2006.9	Clarified provider requirements for Community Access services.	M	N/A
10/1/2025	3501.5, et seq.	Clarified Transportation Services exclusions.	M	N/A
7/1/2025	2203.2	Updated licensure hyperlink.	M	N/A
7/1/2025	2204.5	Updated licensure hyperlink.	M	N/A
7/1/2025	2307.4	Updated non-covered provisions for host home services.	M	N/A
7/1/2025	2606	Clarified Participant-Directed Representative language.	M	N/A
7/1/2025	2900	Revised chapter to align with current practices.	M	N/A
7/1/2025	3102	Updated licensure hyperlinks.	M	N/A
7/1/2025	3302	Updated Durable Medical Equipment policy manual hyperlinks.	M	N/A
7/1/2025	Appendix A	Updated Appendix A.	M	N/A
4/1/2025	2002	Clarified language related to Community Access staffing ratios.	M	Policy clarification
4/1/2025	Appendix A	Updated rates, applicable service limits, and other pertinent details	M	Policy clarification
1/1/2025	Manual Cover Page	Change date from October 1, 2024 to January 1, 2025	M	N/A
1/1/2025	Manual Cover Page	Added CRA Intensive and Specialized to service listing	A	Services added in waiver amendment
1/1/2025	1308	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	1408	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits

				already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	1508	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	1608	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	1708	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	1801	Added specifications for defining 'high-risk' behavioral factors	A	Policy clarification
1/1/2025	2001	Policy clarification to distinguish Community Access Group (CAG) facility and community services and to address allowances for transportation billing; Moved discussion of transportation-related activities to 'covered services' section.	M	Policy clarification
1/1/2025	2002.2	Added staffing ratio allowances for Community-Based Group Community Access Services	A	Waiver amendment
1/1/2025	2005	Provided clarification regarding transportation billing.	M	Policy clarification
1/1/2025	2100	Deleted chapter for Community Guide Services (no longer offered in COMP waiver program)	D	Waiver amendment
1/1/2025	2208	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	2302	Updated Community Residential Alternative staff hours for Category 4	M	Revision based on rate study
1/1/2025	2306	Clarified billing rule for Community Residential Alternative when individuals change providers during the plan year	M	Revision based on rate study
1/1/2025	2308	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	2408	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in

				Appendix A
1/1/2025	2508	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	2708	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	2800	Deleted chapter for Natural Supports Training Services (no longer offered in COMP waiver program)	D	Waiver amendment
1/1/2025	2907	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	3007	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	3108	Updated basis for reimbursement; Incorporated tiered category definitions	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	3208	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	3308	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	3401	Policy clarification to distinguish service modalities for Supported Employment – Individual	M	Waiver amendment
1/1/2025	3407	Provided Supported Employment – Group allowable staffing ratios	A	Waiver amendment
1/1/2025	3408	Provided specifications for participant-directed supported employment	M	Waiver amendment
1/1/2025	3409	Provided reference to ‘Telemedicine Guidance’ for supported employment	M	Policy clarification
1/1/2025	3508	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in

				Appendix A
1/1/2025	3608	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	3708	Updated basis for reimbursement	M	Reimbursement amounts and limits already covered in Appendix A
1/1/2025	3800	Added section 3800	A	Waiver amendment
1/1/2025	3900	Added section 3900	A	Waiver amendment
1/1/2025	Appendix A	Updates rates, applicable service limits, and other pertinent details.	M	Waiver amendment and policy changes
1/1/2025	Appendix B	Created new Appendix B for enhanced rate requirements for deaf and hard of hearing	A	Waiver amendment
10/1/2024	Manual Cover Page	Change date from July 1, 2024 to October 1, 2024	M	N/A
10/1/2024	Footer	Change date from July 1, 2024 to October 1, 2024	M	N/A
7/1/2024	603.3.1	The policy was modified as follows: Case managers must hold a Bachelor's degree or Master's degree in social work (MSW)	M	Georgia's HB1014, line 415

1301. General

Adult Occupational Therapy Services (OT) cover evaluation and therapeutic services that are not otherwise covered by Medicaid State Plan services. These services address the occupational therapy needs of the adult individual that result from his or her developmental disability. Adult Occupational Therapy Services include occupational therapy evaluation, individual/family education, occupational therapy activities to improve functional performance, and sensory integrative techniques to enhance sensory processing and promote adaptive responses to environmental demands. (07/2016)

Adult Occupational Therapy Services are provided by a Georgia licensed occupational therapist and by order of a physician. These services may be provided in an individual's own or family home, the Occupational Therapist's office, outpatient clinics, facilities in which Community Access or Prevocational Services are provided, Supported Employment work sites, or other community settings specific to community-based therapy goal(s) specified in the Individual Service Plan.

1302. Special Requirements of Participation

1302.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Adult Occupational Therapy Services providers must meet the following requirements:

1302.1.1. Service Provision: Adult Occupational Therapy Services are provided by a Georgia licensed occupational therapist and by order of a physician. Physician orders must be on letterhead or as a prescription from the physician and must indicate either the frequency of OT therapy services or an OT evaluation to determine the frequency of OT therapy services.

1302.1.2. Documentation Requirement: Providers must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Adult Occupational Therapy Services:

1302.1.2.1. Specific evaluation, training or therapeutic assistance provided;

1302.1.2.1.1. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

1302.1.2.1.2. Location where the service was delivered;

1302.1.2.1.3. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

1302.1.2.1.4. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP

1302.1.2.1.5. Adult Occupational Therapy Providers must maintain documentation for the identified need of therapies, frequency and duration of therapy, interventions to be provided, and Adult Occupational Therapy goal(s) addressing therapies.

1302.1.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

1302.1.4. Adult Occupational Therapy Services at Community Access and Prevocational Service Facilities: Providers can provide Adult Occupational Therapy Services at facilities where Community Access and Prevocational Services are rendered; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

1302.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Adult Occupational Therapy Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

1302.2.1. Service Provision: Adult Occupational Therapy Services are provided by a Georgia licensed occupational therapist and by order of a physician. Physician orders must be on

letterhead or as a prescription from the physician and must indicate either the frequency of OT therapy services or an OT evaluation to determine the frequency of OT therapy services.

1302.2.2. Types of Agencies: Agencies that provide Adult Occupational Therapy Services are:

1302.2.2.1. Accredited or Certified DD Service Agencies;

1302.2.2.2. Home Health Agencies.

1302.2.2.3. Specialized Therapy Agencies

1302.2.3. Staffing Qualifications and Responsibilities:

1302.2.3.1. Accredited or Certified DD Service Agencies rendering Adult Occupational Therapy Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

1302.2.3.1.1. A Clinical Services Supervisor (CSS)-. Additional information regarding CSS qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701.

1302.2.3.1.2. Duties of the CSS include, but are not limited to:

1302.2.3.1.2.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

1302.2.3.1.2.2. Manages the use of agency funds;

1302.2.3.1.2.3. Ensures the

developme nt and updating of required policies of the agency;

1302.2.3.1.2.4. Manages the employme nt of staff and profession al contracts for the agency;

1302.2.3.1.2.5. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

1302.2.3.1.3. Provider agencies must have available a sufficient number of employees or professionals under contract that are Georgia licensed occupational therapists to provide Adult Occupational Therapy Services.

1302.2.3.1.4. Duties of the occupational therapists include all covered services in Section 1306.

1302.2.3.2. Home Health Agencies rendering Adult Occupational Therapy Services must have staffing that meets the conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for Home Health Services.

1302.2.3.2.1. Agency Policies and Procedures: Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of Adult Occupational Therapy services, which follow the Standards for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities refer to Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP.

1302.2.3.2.2. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Adult Occupational Therapy Services:

1302.2.3.2.2.1. Specific evaluation, training or therapeutic assistance provided;

1302.2.3.2.2.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

1302.2.3.2.2.3. Location where the service was delivered;

1302.2.3.2.2.4. Verification of service

delivery, including first and last name and title of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

1302.2.3.2.2.5. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

1302.2.3.2.2.6. Adult Occupational Therapy Providers must maintain documentation for the identified need of therapies, frequency and duration of therapy, interventions to be provided, and OT goal(s) addressing therapies.

1302.2.3.2.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements:

Documentation and other requirements for providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.

1302.2.3.2.4. Adult Occupational Therapy Services at Community Access and Prevocational Service Facilities: Providers can provide Adult Occupational Therapy Services at facilities where Community Access and Prevocational Services are rendered; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple waiver services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

1302.2.3.2.5. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 603).

1303. Licensure

1303.1. Adult Occupational Therapy Services are provided by a licensed

Occupational Therapist in accordance with the applicable Georgia license as required under O.C.G.A. § 43-28-7.

1303.2. Home Health Agencies providing Adult Occupational Therapy services must have a Home Health Agency License (State of Georgia Rules and Regulations 290-5-38)

1304. Special Eligibility Conditions

Adult Occupational Therapy Services are not available until the waiver individual's 21st birthday.

The need for Adult Occupational Therapy Services must be reflected in the Intake and Evaluation Team approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

There is a reasonable expectation by the licensed occupational therapist that the individual can achieve the goals in the necessary time frame.

All services must be ordered by a physician.

1305. Prior Approval

Adult Occupational Therapy Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes. The need for Adult Occupational Therapy must be an identifiable assessed need in the ISP and directly related to the disability.

1306. Covered Services

Reimbursable Adult Occupational Therapy Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

1306.1. Occupational therapy evaluation.

1306.2. Therapeutic activities to improve functional performance.

1306.3. Sensory integrative techniques to enhance sensory processing and promote adaptive responses to environmental demands.

1306.4. Individual /family education.

1307. Non-Covered Services

1307.1. Adult Occupational Therapy Services do not include in-home therapeutic services for the treatment of an illness or injury that are covered in Home Health Services under the regular Medicaid State Plan.

1307.2. Transportation to and from these service delivery site may not be billed as part of the service.

1307.3. Group Therapy Activities.

1307.4. Not covered for conditions not related to DD diagnosis.

1307.5. Services that have not been ordered by a physician.

1307.6. Services in a hospital.

1307.7. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

1307.8. Co-payment towards other insurance sources.

1308. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rates for Adult Occupational Therapy Services are found in Appendix A.

1309. Participant-Direction Options

1309.1. Individuals can choose the self-direction option with Adult Occupational Therapy Services.

1309.2. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider of Adult Occupational Therapy Services.

1309.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

1310. Telehealth Options

1310.1. All components of Adult Occupational Therapy can be safely provided via telehealth modalities according to prevailing best practice standards published by the American Occupational Therapy Association and in accordance with the applicable Georgia license requirements under O.C.G.A. § 43-28-7. (Rev 10/2022)

1310.2. Therapists are expected to use synchronous audio/video technology for telehealth sessions. Telephone calls and store and forward (asynchronous) modalities are not allowed for billable therapy evaluation and services

1310.3. All contracted waiver providers are covered entities and obligated to abide by HIPAA and state privacy law. Providers are required to use only HIPAA compliant platforms while offering telehealth services. All contracted providers must sign business associate agreements with the operating agency, as required by HIPAA. Adult Occupational Therapists wishing to use telehealth modalities to deliver evaluation or treatment services must obtain valid signed consent from the individual or the legal decision-maker.

1310.4. Telehealth services must be rendered in quiet environment with attendance limited to the individual and whoever is assisting the clinician during the

session as informant and/or following hands-on direction.

1310.5. General instructions about providing staff training include guidance that any documents including photographs of the individual should be developed to protect the privacy of the individual (e.g., individuals photographed positioned in alternate positioning equipment for staff training are clothed).

1310.6. For more information regarding telehealth guidance, please refer to the telehealth guidance, located at www.mmis.georgia.gov, Click Provider Information-Provider Manuals. (Rev 10/2022)

Chapter 1400: Adult Physical Therapy Services Scope of Services

1401. General

Adult Physical Therapy Services (PT) cover evaluation and therapeutic services that are not otherwise covered by Medicaid State Plan services. These services address the physical therapy needs of the adult individual that result from his or her developmental disability. Adult Physical Therapy Services include physical therapy evaluation, individual/family education, and therapeutic exercises to develop sitting and standing balance, strength and endurance, and range of motion and flexibility. Adult Physical Therapy Services also consist of muscle strengthening and endurance to facilitate transfers from wheelchairs and the use of other equipment. (Rev 07/2016)

Adult Physical Therapy Services are provided by a Georgia licensed physical therapist and by order of a physician. These services may be provided in an individual's own or family home, the Physical Therapist's office, outpatient clinics, facilities in which Community Access or Prevocational Services are provided, Supported Employment work sites, or other community settings specific to community-based therapy goal(s) specified in the Individual Service Plan.

1402. Special Requirements of Participation

1402.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the NOW and COMP Program, Adult Physical Therapy Services providers must meet the following requirements:

1402.1.1. Service Provision: Adult Physical Therapy Services are provided by a Georgia licensed physical therapist and by order of a physician. Physician orders must be on letterhead or as a prescription from the physician and must indicate either the frequency of PT therapy services or a PT evaluation to determine the frequency of PT therapy services.

1402.1.2. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Adult Physical Therapy Services:

1402.1.2.1. Specific evaluation, training or therapeutic assistance provided;

1402.1.2.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

1402.1.2.3. Location where the service was delivered;

1402.1.2.4. Verification of service delivery, including

first and last name and title of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

1402.1.2.5. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

1402.1.2.6. Adult Physical Therapy providers maintain documentation for: the identified need of therapies, frequency and duration of therapy, interventions to be provided, and Physical Therapy goal(s) addressing therapies.

1402.1.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

1402.1.4. Adult Physical Therapy Services at Community Access and Prevocational Service Facilities: Providers can provide Adult Physical Therapy Services at facilities where Community Access and Prevocational Services are rendered; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple waiver services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

1402.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the NOW and COMP Program, Adult Physical Therapy Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

1402.2.1. Service Provision: Adult Physical Therapy Services are provided by a Georgia licensed physical therapist and by order of a physician. Physician orders must be on letterhead or as a prescription from the physician and must indicate either the frequency of PT therapy services or a PT evaluation to determine the frequency of PT therapy services.

1402.2.2. Types of Agencies: Agencies that provide Adult Physical Therapy Services are:

1402.2.2.1. Accredited or Certified DD Service

Agencies

1402.2.2.2. Home Health Agencies

1402.2.2.3. Specialized Therapy Agencies

1402.2.3. Staffing Qualifications and Responsibilities:

1402.2.3.1. Accredited or Certified DD Service Agencies rendering Adult Physical Therapy Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements: (Rev 01/2013)

1402.2.3.1.1. A Clinical Services Supervisor (CSS) . Additional information regarding CSS qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701.

1402.2.3.1.2. Duties of the CSS include, but are not limited to:

1402.2.3.1.2.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

1402.2.3.1.2.2. Manages the use of agency funds;

1402.2.3.1.2.3. Ensures the developme nt and updating of required policies of the agency;

1402.2.3.1.2.4. Manages the

employme nt of staff and profession al contracts for the agency;

1402.2.3.1.2.5. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

1402.2.3.1.3. Provider agencies must have available a sufficient number of employees or professionals under contract that are Georgia licensed physical therapists to provide Adult Physical Therapy Duties of the physical therapists include all covered services in Section 1406.

1402.2.3.2. Home Health Agencies rendering Adult Physical Therapy Services must have staffing that meets the conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for Home Health Services.

1402.2.4. Agency Policies and Procedures: Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of Adult Physical Therapy services, which follow the Standards for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities refer to Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP.

1402.2.5. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Adult Physical Therapy Services:

1402.2.5.1. Specific evaluation, training or therapeutic

assistance provided;

1402.2.5.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

1402.2.5.3. Location where the service was delivered;

1402.2.5.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

1402.2.5.5. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

1402.2.5.6. Adult Physical Therapy providers maintain documentation for: the identified need of therapies, frequency and duration of therapy, interventions to be provided, and Physical Therapy goal(s) addressing therapies.

1402.2.6. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

1402.2.7. Adult Physical Therapy Services at Community Access and Prevocational Service Facilities: Providers can provide Adult Physical Therapy Services at facilities where Community Access and Prevocational Services are rendered; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

1402.2.8. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 603).

1403. Licensure

1403.1. Adult Physical Therapy Services are provided by a licensed Physical Therapist in accordance with the applicable Georgia license as required

under O.C.G.A. § 43-33-19.

1403.2. Home Health Agencies providing Adult Physical Therapy services must have a Home Health Agency License (State of Georgia Rules and Regulations 290-5-38).

1404. Special Eligibility Conditions

1404.1. Adult Physical Therapy Services are not available until the waiver individual's 21st birthday.

1404.2. The need for Adult Physical Therapy Services must be reflected in the Intake and Evaluation Team approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

1404.3. There is a reasonable expectation by the licensed physical therapist that the individual can achieve the physical therapy goal(s) in the necessary time frame.

1404.4. All services must be ordered by a physician.

1405. Prior Approval

Adult Physical Therapy Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes. The need for Adult Physical Therapy must be an identifiable assessed need in the ISP and directly related to the disability.

1406. Covered Services

Reimbursable Adult Physical Therapy Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

1406.1. Physical therapy evaluation.

1406.2. Therapeutic procedures.

1406.3. Therapeutic exercises to develop strength and endurance, and range of motion and flexibility.

1406.4. Individual/family education.

1406.5. Therapeutic exercise programs including muscle strengthening, neuromuscular facilitation, sitting and standing balance and endurance and increased range of motion

1406.6. Muscle strengthening and endurance to facilitate transfers from wheelchairs and the use of other equipment.

1407. Non-Covered Services

1407.1. Adult Physical Therapy Services do not include in-home therapeutic services for the treatment of an illness or injury that are covered in Home

Health Services under the regular Medicaid State Plan.

1407.2. Transportation to and from these services is not included in the rate.

1407.3. Group Therapy Activities.

1407.4. Not covered for conditions not related to DD diagnosis.

1407.5. Services that have not been ordered by a physician.

1407.6. Services in a hospital.

1407.7. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

1407.8. Co-payment towards other insurance sources.

1408. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rates for Adult Physical Therapy Services are found in Appendix A.

1409. Participant-Direction Options

1409.1. Individuals can choose the self-direction option with Adult Physical Therapy Services.

1409.2. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider of Adult Physical Therapy Services.

1409.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

1410. Telehealth Options

1410.1. All components of Adult Physical Therapy can be safely provided via telehealth modalities according to prevailing best practice standards published by the American Physical Therapy Association and the applicable Georgia license requirements under O.C.G.A. § 43-33-11. (Rev 10/2022)

1410.2. Therapists are expected to use synchronous audio/video technology for telehealth sessions. Telephone calls and store and forward (asynchronous) modalities are not allowed for billable therapy evaluation and services

1410.3. All contracted waiver providers are covered entities and obligated to abide by HIPAA and state privacy law. Providers are required to use only HIPAA compliant platforms while offering telehealth services. All contracted providers must sign business associate agreements with the operating agency, as required by HIPAA. Physical therapists wishing to

use telehealth modalities to deliver evaluation or treatment services must obtain valid signed consent from the individual or the legal decision-maker.

1410.4. Telehealth services must be rendered in quiet environment with attendance limited to the individual and whoever is assisting the clinician during the session as informant and/or following hands-on direction.

1410.5. General instructions about providing staff training include guidance that any documents including photographs of the individual should be developed to protect the privacy of the individual (e.g., individuals photographed positioned in alternate positioning equipment for staff training are clothed)

1410.6. For more information regarding telehealth guidance, please refer to the telehealth guidance, located at www.mmis.georgia.gov, Click Provider Information-Provider Manuals.

Chapter 1500: Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services Scope of Services

1501. General

Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services cover evaluation and therapeutic services that are not otherwise covered by Medicaid State Plan services. These services address the speech and language therapy needs of the adult individual that result from his or her developmental disability. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services include the evaluation of speech language, voice, and language communication, auditory processing, and/or aural rehabilitation status. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services also consist of individual/family education, speech language therapy, and therapeutic services for the use of speech-generating devices, including programming and modification. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services also includes assessment of oral feeding and swallowing skills, and, if indicated, development and implementation of intervention to improve swallowing and reduce aspiration risk.

Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services are provided by a Georgia licensed speech and language pathologist and by order of a physician. These services may be provided in an individual's own or family home, the Speech and Language Pathologist's office, outpatient clinics, facilities in which Community Access or Prevocational Services are provided, Supported Employment work sites, or other community settings specific to community-based therapy goal(s) specified in the Individual Service Plan.

1502. Special Requirements of Participation

1502.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the NOW and COMP Program, Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services providers must meet the following requirements:

1502.1.1. Service Provision: Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services are provided by a Georgia licensed speech and language pathologist and by order of a physician. Physician orders must be on letterhead or as a prescription from the physician and must indicate either the frequency of speech and language therapy services or a speech and language evaluation to determine the frequency of speech and language therapy services.

1502.1.2. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services:

1502.1.2.1. Specific evaluation, training or therapeutic assistance provided;

1502.1.2.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

1502.1.2.3. Location where the service was delivered;

1502.1.2.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

1502.1.2.5. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

1502.1.2.6. Adult Speech and Language Therapy providers maintain documentation for: the identified need of therapies, frequency and duration of therapy, interventions to be provided, and Adult Speech and Language Therapy goal(s) addressing therapies.

1502.1.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

1502.1.4. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services at Community Access and Prevocational Service Facilities: Providers can provide Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services at facilities where Community Access and Prevocational Services are rendered; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

1502.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

1502.2.1. Service Provision: Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services are provided by a Georgia licensed speech and language pathologist and by order of a physician. Physician orders must be on letterhead or as a prescription from the physician and must indicate either the frequency of speech and language therapy services or a speech and language

evaluation to determine the frequency of speech and language therapy services.

1502.2.2. Types of Agencies: Agencies that provide Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services are:

1502.2.2.1. Accredited or Certified DD Service Agencies;

1502.2.2.2. Home Health Agencies

1502.2.2.3. Specialized Therapy Agencies

1502.2.3. Staffing Qualifications and Responsibilities:

1502.2.3.1. Accredited or Certified DD Service Agencies rendering Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

1502.2.3.1.1. A designated Clinical Services Supervisor (CSS) Additional information regarding CSS qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701.

1502.2.3.1.2. Duties of the CSS include, but are not limited to:

1502.2.3.1.2.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

1502.2.3.1.2.2. Manages the use of agency funds;

1502.2.3.1.2.3. Ensures the developme

nt and updating of required policies of the agency;

1502.2.3.1.2.4. Manages the employment of staff and professional contracts for the agency;

1502.2.3.1.2.5. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

1502.2.3.1.3. Provider agencies must have available a sufficient number of employees or professionals under contract that are Georgia licensed speech and language pathologists to provide Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services.

1502.2.3.1.4. Duties of the Speech and Language Pathologist include all covered services in Section 1506.

1502.2.3.2. Home Health Agencies rendering Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services must have staffing that meets the conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in NOW and COMP PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for Home Health Services.

1502.2.4. Agency Policies and Procedures: Each provider agency

must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of Adult Speech and Language Therapy services, which follow the Standards for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities refer to Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP.

1502.2.5. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services:

1502.2.5.1. Specific evaluation, training or therapeutic assistance provided;

1502.2.5.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

1502.2.5.3. Location where the service was delivered;

1502.2.5.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

1502.2.5.5. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

1502.2.5.6. Adult Speech and Language Therapy providers maintain documentation for: the identified need of therapies, frequency and duration of therapy, interventions to be provided, and Speech and Language Therapy goal(s) addressing therapies.

1502.2.6. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW Chapter 1200.

1502.2.7. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services at Community Access and Prevocational Service Facilities: Providers can provide Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services at facilities where Community Access and Prevocational Services are rendered; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple waiver services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

1503. Licensure

1503.1. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services are provided by a licensed Speech and Language Pathologist in accordance with the applicable Georgia license as required under O.C.G.A. § 43-44-7.

1503.2. Home Health Agencies providing Adult Speech and Language Therapy services must have a Home Health Agency License (State of Georgia Rules and Regulations 290-5-38)

1504. Special Eligibility Conditions

1504.1. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services are not available until the waiver individual's 21st birthday.

1504.2. The need for Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services must be reflected in the Intake and Evaluation Team approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

1504.3. There is a reasonable expectation by the licensed speech and language pathologist that the individual can achieve the goals in the necessary time frame.

1504.4. All services must be ordered by a physician.

1505. Prior Approval

Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes. The need for Adult Speech and Language Therapy must be an identifiable assessed need in the ISP and directly related to the disability.

1506. Covered Services

1506.1. Reimbursable Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

1506.2. Evaluation of speech language, voice, and language communication, auditory processing, and/or aural rehabilitation.

1506.3. Individual treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing.

1506.4. Therapeutic services for the use of speech-generating device, including programming and modification.

1506.5. Individual/family education.

1507. Non-Covered Services

1507.1. In-home therapeutic services for the treatment of an illness or injury that are covered in Home Health Services under the regular Medicaid State Plan.

1507.2. Transportation to and from these services is not included in the rate.

1507.3. Group Therapy Activities.

1507.4. Not covered for conditions not related to DD diagnosis.

1507.5. Services that have not been ordered by a physician.

1507.6. Services in a hospital.

1507.7. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

1507.8. Payment is not made for feeding and swallowing evaluation and treatment via any telehealth modality.

1507.9. Co-payment towards other insurance sources,

1508. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rates for Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services are found in Appendix A.

1509. Participant-Direction Options

1509.1. Individuals can choose the self-direction option with Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services.

1509.2. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider of Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services.

1509.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

1510. Telehealth Options

1510.1. All components of Speech and Language Therapy can be safely provided via telehealth modalities according to prevailing best practice standards published by the American Speech and Language Hearing Association and in accordance with the Georgia license requirements under O.C.G.A. § 43-44-7. (Rev 10/2022)

1510.2. Therapists are expected to use synchronous "in real time" audio/video

technology for telehealth sessions. Telephone calls and store and forward (asynchronous) modalities are not allowed for billable therapy evaluation and services

1510.3. All contracted waiver providers are covered entities and obligated to abide by HIPAA and state privacy law. Providers are required to use only HIPAA compliant platforms while offering telehealth services. Speech and Language Therapists wishing to use telehealth modalities to deliver evaluation or treatment services must obtain valid signed consent from the individual or the legal decision-maker.

1510.4. Telehealth services must be rendered in quiet environment with attendance limited to the individual and whoever is assisting the clinician during the session as informant and/or following hands-on direction.

1510.5. General instructions about providing staff training include guidance that any documents including photographs of the individual should be developed to protect the privacy of the individual (e.g., individuals photographed positioned in alternate positioning equipment for staff training are clothed)

1510.6. Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services may be provided through a telehealth delivery model with the following exceptions: Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy; Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy self-directed; Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation, Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation self-directed. For more information regarding acceptable Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy, please reference section 1501.

1510.7. For more information regarding telehealth guidance, please refer to the telehealth guidance, located at www.mmis.georgia.gov, Click Provider Information-Provider Manuals.

Chapter 1600: Specific Program Requirements for Adult Nutrition Services Scope of Services

1601. General

Adult Nutrition Services provide evaluation and dietary intervention services that are not otherwise reimbursed through Medicaid State Plan Services. Adult Nutrition Services include nutrition evaluation, education of individual, family, and support staff, and periodic monitoring and dietary intervention to improve nutrition-related health conditions. Adult Nutrition Services are provided by a Georgia Licensed Dietitian and by order of a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner. These services may be provided in the individual's own home, family home, Licensed Dietitian's office, outpatient clinic, or facilities in which day services are provided.

Adult Nutrition Services include development of diet guidelines consistent with physician's order, mealtime observation to gather information about typical meal choices and preparation practices, development of sample menus, training and education of the individual, family, and staff in dietary compliance, and other clinically sound interventions judged necessary by the Licensed Dietitian, and not inconsistent with the physician's order. Any recommendations made by the Licensed Dietitian that alter the original order (e.g., modification to the prescribed diet, addition of supplements) must be ordered by the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner before implementation.

1602. Special Requirements of Participation

1602.1. Licensure

1602.1.1. Adult Nutrition Services are provided by a licensed Dietitian in accordance with the applicable Georgia license requirements under O.C.G.A. § 43-11A-16.

1602.1.2. Home Health Agencies providing Adult Nutrition services must have a Home Health Agency License as required under O.C.G.A. § 31-7-151.

1602.2. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Adult Occupational Therapy Services providers must meet the following requirements:

1602.2.1. Service Provision: Adult Nutrition Services are provided by a Georgia licensed dietitian and by order of a physician.

1602.2.2. Documentation Requirement: Providers must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Adult Nutrition Services:

1602.2.2.1. Specific evaluation, training or therapeutic assistance provided;

1602.2.2.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

1602.2.2.3. Location where the service was delivered;

1602.2.2.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

1602.2.2.5. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

1602.2.2.6. Adult Nutrition Providers must maintain documentation for the identified need of therapies, frequency and duration of therapy, interventions to be provided, and goal(s) addressing therapies. Copies of documentation and/or educational material must be part of the documentation of a residential or other setting as training tools.

1602.2.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

1602.2.4. Adult Nutrition Services at Community Access and Prevocational Service Facilities: Providers can provide Adult Nutrition Services at facilities where Community Access and Prevocational Services are rendered; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

1602.3. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Adult Nutrition Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

1602.3.1. Service Provision: Adult Nutrition Services are provided by a Georgia licensed dietitian and by order of a physician.

1602.3.2. Types of Agencies: Agencies that provide Adult Nutrition Services are:

1602.3.2.1. Accredited or Certified DD Service Agencies;

1602.3.2.2. Home Health Agencies.

1602.3.3. Staffing Qualifications and Responsibilities:

1602.3.3.1. Accredited or Certified DD Service Agencies rendering Adult Nutrition Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

1602.3.3.1.1. A Clinical Services Supervisor (CSS). Additional information regarding CSS qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701

1602.3.3.1.2. Duties of the CSS include, but are not limited to:

1602.3.3.1.2.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

1602.3.3.1.2.2. Manages the use of agency funds;

1602.3.3.1.2.3. Ensures the development and updating of required policies of the agency;

1602.3.3.1.2.4. Manages the employment of staff

and professional contracts for the agency;

1602.3.3.1.2.5. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

1602.3.3.1.3. Provider agencies must have available a sufficient number of employees or professionals under contract that are Georgia licensed dietitians to provide Adult Nutrition Services.

1602.3.3.2. Home Health Agencies rendering Adult Nutrition Services must have staffing that meets the conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for Home Health Services.

1602.3.3.2.1. Agency Policies and Procedures: Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of Adult Nutrition services which follow the Standards for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities refer to Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW.

1602.3.3.2.2. Adult Nutrition Services at Community Access and Prevocational Service Facilities: Providers can

provide Adult Nutrition Services at facilities where Community Access and Prevocational Services are rendered; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple waiver services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

1602.3.3.2.3. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 603).

1603. Special Eligibility Conditions

In addition to a physician's order, an individual must have one of the following conditions:

A medical condition or diagnosis:

For which a special therapeutic diet or dietary plan has been ordered by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner; or Which has resulted in the individual's inability to maintain adequate nutrition or hydration; or Which involved pressure ulcers, non-healing skin lesions, or wounds or the individual is obese with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or greater or
The individual has had an unplanned weight gain or loss of 10% in the past six months.

$$\text{BMI} = \frac{weight\ in\ pounds}{(height\ in\ inches)^2} \times 703 \quad or \quad \frac{weight\ in\ kilograms}{(height\ in\ meters)^2}$$

Adult Nutrition Services are not available until the waiver individual's 21st birthday.

$$\text{BMI} = \frac{weight\ in\ pounds}{(height\ in\ inches)^2} \times 703 \quad or \quad \frac{weight\ in\ kilograms}{(height\ in\ meters)^2}$$

The need for Adult Nutrition Services must be reflected in the Intake and Evaluation Team approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

There is a reasonable expectation by the licensed dietitian that the individual can achieve the goal(s) in the necessary time frame.

All services must be ordered by a physician.

1604. Prior Approval

Adult Nutrition Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes. The need for Adult Nutrition Services must be an identifiable assessed need in the ISP and directly related to the disability.

1605. Covered Services

Reimbursable Adult Nutrition Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

1605.1. Nutrition evaluation.

1605.2. Individual/family/staff education.

1606. Non-Covered Services

1606.1. Adult Nutrition Services do not include in-home therapeutic services for the treatment of an illness or injury that are covered in Home Health Services under the regular Medicaid State Plan.

1606.2. Transportation to and from these service delivery site may not be billed as part of the service.

1606.3. Not covered for conditions not related to DD diagnosis.

1606.4. Services that have not been ordered by a physician.

1606.5. Services in a hospital.

1606.6. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

1607. Documentation Requirement:

Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Adult Nutrition Services:

1607.1. Specific evaluation, training or therapeutic assistance provided;

1607.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

1607.3. Location where the service was delivered;

1607.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

1607.5. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

1607.6. Adult Nutrition Providers must maintain documentation for the identified need of therapies, frequency and duration of therapy, interventions to be provided, and goal(s) addressing therapies.

1608. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rates for Adult Nutrition Services are found in Appendix A.

1609. Participant-Direction Options

Individuals cannot choose the self-direction option with Adult Nutrition Services.

An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider

For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 1200.

1610. Telehealth Options

1610.1. All components of Adult Nutrition Services can be safely provided via telehealth modalities in accordance with the applicable Georgia license requirements under O.C.G.A. § 43-11A-16 for Licensed Dietitians. (Rev 10/2022)

1610.2. Adult Nutrition providers are expected to use synchronous audio/video technology for telehealth sessions. Telephone calls and store and forward (asynchronous) modalities are not allowed for billable therapy evaluation and services.

1610.3. All contracted waiver providers are covered entities and obligated to abide by HIPAA and state privacy law. Providers are required to use only HIPAA compliant platforms while offering telehealth services. All contracted providers must sign business associate agreements with the

operating agency, as required by HIPAA. All Adult Nutrition providers wishing to use telehealth modalities to deliver evaluation or treatment services must obtain valid signed consent from the individual or their legal decision-maker.

1610.4. Telehealth services must be rendered in quiet environment with attendance limited to the individual and whoever is assisting the clinician during the session as informant and/or following hands-on direction.

1610.5. General instructions about providing staff training include guidance that any documents including photographs of the individual should be developed to protect the privacy of the individual (e.g., individuals photographed positioned in alternate positioning equipment for staff training are clothed)

1610.6. For more information regarding telehealth guidance, please refer to the telehealth guidance, located at www.mmis.georgia.gov , Click Provider Information-Provider Manuals.

Chapter 1700: Specific Program Requirements for Additional Staffing Services Scope of Services

1701. General Description of AS services

Additional Staffing services are provided on behalf of individuals with a high level of functional, medical or behavioral needs who require direct support or oversight beyond the level provided within traditional service descriptions. Clinically indicated additional staffing can be utilized as an enhanced staffing option in conjunction with clinically indicated Community Living Supports Services, Community Access Group, or Community Residential Alternative Services. AS services may be authorized to provide a higher ratio of staff to waive individual support, additional hours of service on a temporary basis in response to individual or family crisis, or to assist with transition services from institutional or acute care to community settings. (Rev 07/2017)

Note: If authorized for institutional transition support, AS is authorized temporarily for stabilization assistance with periodic reviews post transition to confirm continued need for additional staffing.

Please reference Appendix I in PART II CHAPTERS 600 – 1200 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR COMP and NOW for more information regarding Additional Staffing Services. (Rev 10/2021 Rev 10/2025)

1702. Special Requirements of Participation

1702.1. DD Service Agencies rendering Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

1702.1.1. A designated agency director. Additional information regarding director qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701.

1702.1.1.1. Duties of the Agency Director include, but are not limited to:

1702.1.1.2. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

1702.1.1.3. Manages the use of agency funds;

1702.1.1.4. Ensures the development and updating of required policies of the agency;

1702.1.1.5. Manages the employment of staff and professional contracts for the agency;

1702.1.1.6. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

1702.2. A Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) (for definition, Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf

The agency director who meets the qualifications of a Developmental Disability Professional may serve both roles provided the staff members meets the professional qualifications for each role.

1702.3. Direct Care Staff who must:

1702.3.1. Be 18 years or older;

1702.3.2. Have a high school diploma or equivalent (General Educational Development or GED) or have a minimum score of 75 on the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (STOFHLA) or Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (TOFHLA). (Rev 04/2022)

1702.3.3. Meet transportation requirements in COMP and NOW, Part II Chapter 900, section 905 if transporting individuals.

1702.3.4. Be provided with a basic orientation prior to direct contact with individuals and show competence in:

1702.3.5. The purpose and scope of the service to be delivered, including related policies and procedures;

1702.3.6. Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken;

1702.3.7. Rights and responsibilities of individuals;

1702.3.8. Requirements for recognizing and reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any individual:

1702.3.8.1. To the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;

1702.3.8.2. Within the organization;

1702.3.8.3. To appropriate regulatory or licensing agencies; and

1702.3.8.4. To law enforcement agencies

The agency has adequate direct care staff with First Aid and CPR certifications to assure having at least one staff person with these certifications on duty during the provision of service.

The type and number of all other staff associated with the organization (such as contract staff, consultants) are:

1702.3.8.5. Properly trained or credentialed in the professional field as required;

1702.3.8.6. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individuals as required; and

1702.3.8.7. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

National criminal records check (NCIC) documentation for all employees and any volunteers who have direct care, treatment, or custodial responsibilities for individuals served by the agency pursuant to DBHDD Policy 04-104 and all policy outlined in Part I Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids.

Provider agencies must have available a sufficient number of employees or professionals under contract as specified.

Service-specific staff duties are outlined in the following chapters.

Agency Policies and Procedures: Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of the agency and which follow the Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities found at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf.

DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 606).

Licensure

Additional Staffing is provided by agencies enrolled to provide CLS or CRA services. License requirements for those services apply to services delivered under AS.

Supervision and Direct Support Staff Duties

Supervision of Direct Support Staff

All agency providers must comply with staff supervision requirements as defined in Private Home Care licensure Rules, Community Living Arrangement licensure Rules and policy requirements outlined in CAG, CLS. and CRA service descriptions.

Duties of Additional Staff include, but are not limited to:

1702.3.8.8. Provide direct assistance to the individual in self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills training, retention and improvement;

1702.3.8.9. Provide personal care and protective oversight and supervision;

1702.3.8.10. Implement the behavioral support plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors;

Other Requirements

The agency has adequate direct care staff with First Aid and CPR certifications to assure having at least one staff person with these certifications on duty during the provision of services.

Additional Staffing services must be provided by an employee of an enrolled CLS, CAG or CRA provider agency or by an individual obtained through an employment agency.

1703. Special Eligibility Conditions

1703.1. Waiver individual receives either Community Access Group, Community Residential Alternative or Community Living Support Services, and

1703.2. Waiver individual exhibits current high-level needs as evidenced by: (Rev 04/2022)

1703.2.1. HRST healthcare level 5 or 6 indicating high medical and/or functional needs verified by DBHDD staff and

1703.2.2. A DBHDD conducted assessment indicating a need for enhanced staffing; or

1703.2.3. Exceptional behavioral needs identified in at least one of the below items i-v and a DBHDD conducted assessment indicating a need for enhanced staffing:

1703.2.3.1. HRST score of 2 or higher on Item F. Self-

Abuse

1703.2.3.2. HRST score of 2 or higher on Item G. Aggression Toward Others or Property

1703.2.3.3. HRST score of 3 or higher on Item U. Emergency Room Visits (documentation must indicate behavioral challenges as the clinical issue)

1703.2.3.4. HRST score of 2 or higher on Item V. Hospital Admissions (documentation must indicate behavioral challenges as the clinical issue)

1703.2.3.5. SIS score of 7 or higher on Total Score for Section 3B: Behavioral Supports Needed; or:

1703.3. A Communication Assessment performed by DBHDD Office of Deaf Services indicating the need for additional or a specialized staff proficient in communication with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

1703.4. Waiver individual has an active court order which requires specific staffing requirements beyond the scope of traditional CLS, CAG, or CRA services, or

1703.5. Waiver individual has documented history of challenging behavior(s) that present significant risk to him/herself or others, or

1703.6. Waiver individual has transitioned from an ICF-ID or other institution within the past six months and transition needs may necessitate additional staffing, or

1703.7. Waiver individual has transitioned from a crisis home or other crisis setting and has an assessed need for additional staffing.

1704. Prior Approval

Additional Staffing Services must be authorized prior to service delivery. AS services require DBHDD Field Office evaluation of the waiver individual at least annually in conjunction with reevaluation of need, development of the Individual Service Plan and with any ISP version changes. Additionally, AS services are subject to second level review by DBHDD clinical staff. (Rev 10/2017)

1705. Covered Services

Reimbursable AS Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual

Adaptive skills development that assists the individual in community activities that support home living in the community, such as communication, community navigation, mobility, understanding community signs/clues, and safety in the community.

Personal care and protective oversight and supervision,

Protective oversight and supervision which include protective care and watchful monitoring activities of individual's functioning, the making and reminding an individual of medical appointments, intervention if a crisis arises.

Training in and personal care/assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, dressing, toileting, and transferring, and with instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), such as personal hygiene, light housework, laundry, meal preparation, transportation, grocery shopping, using the telephone, and medication and money management.

Medically related services, such as basic first aid, arranging and transporting individual to medical appointments, accompanying individuals on medical appointments, documenting an individual's food and/or liquid intake or output, supervision in the area of nutrition and self-administration of medications and other medically related services including health maintenance activities.

Implementation of the behavioral support plan of an individual to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors.

Escort with other staff during transportation in the community to events, medical appointments, and other activities.

1706. Non-Covered Services

1706.1. Additional staffing is not available in family homes or individual's' own homes unless authorized with regular review for stabilization purposes in response to family, condition, environmental or service crisis or institutional transition.

1706.2. Additional staffing is not reimbursable for the purpose of 24-hour support in a family or waiver individual's own home unless assessed need or history corroborates that attempts to share staff with other waiver individuals have been unsuccessful.

1706.3. Additional staffing is not available to individuals served in settings unable to provide documentation of current staffing levels (in the form of time sheets, payroll records, or other documentation) and subject to DCH and DBHDD review.

1707. Documentation

Documentation of AS services must include the following elements in the record of each individual:

1707.1. Weekly staff schedule noting beginning and ending time of day of all AS staff

1707.2. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;

1707.3. Date and the beginning and ending time of day when the service was delivered;

1707.4. Location where the service was delivered;

1707.5. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

1707.6. Supervisory note documenting licensure-level required supervision of the direct support personnel;

1707.7. Progress towards moving the individual towards his or her goal(s) and meeting the needs identified in the individual ISP and Individual 360. Documentation of all information relevant to the particular area of focused need.

1708. Basis for Reimbursement

The rates for Additional Staffing Services are found in Appendix A. (Rev 04/2020)

1709. Participant-Direction Options

1709.1. Additional Staffing Services are not eligible for the self-direction option.

1709.2. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 1800: Specific Program Requirements for Behavior Support Services- Level 1 & Level 2 Scope of Services

1801. General

Behavior Support Services are a combination of learning based and systemic interventions and strategies to assist the individual with the management of challenging behaviors that interfere with activities of daily living, social interactions, work, or similar situations with the outcome of the individual learning new skills and reducing or replacing problem behaviors. Services are authorized for individuals whose challenging behaviors are dangerous or disruptive and present a risk to health and safety to the individual, peers, and others with a level of interruption to daily activities and community integration. A Positive Behavior Support Plan is used to address challenging behaviors that occur with interventions tied to specific goal(s) and objective(s). The purpose of a behavior support plan is to improve behavior over time. (Rev 07/2020)

Behavior Support Service delivery includes structured tasks that consist of a comprehensive functional behavioral assessment of challenging behavior, direct observation, data collection, analysis, and graphing, development of a behavior support plan, competency-based training of identified professional and supervisory staff responsible for training of direct support staff/informal care providers, and routine review of behavior plan efficacy and adjustments to the plan based on review findings. These services are provided in settings where problem behaviors occur that may include an individual's own or family home, behavior supports provider office, outpatient clinics, facilities in which Community Access Services or Prevocational Services are provided, Support Employment work sites, residential, or other community settings.

Behavior Support Services are provided by appropriately qualified professionals with a specific level of expertise in behavior supports evaluation and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Behavior Support Service needs for individuals whose behaviors, while challenging, typically present moderate risk to health and safety with moderate disruption to daily activities and community participation. Individuals determined at high-risk in the community are those with behaviors that have resulted in significant physical injury to self or others, pose ongoing potential risk of harm to self or others, resulted in significant property destruction, caused repeated calls to law enforcement for assistance or intervention, engaged in behaviors that resulted in frequent changes to placement or inability to remain in a preferred residence due to behaviors, required frequent use of restrictive procedures, or required frequent or intermittent emergency crisis services. Individuals are determined high-risk by the provider when at least one of the following is documented in the behavior support plan:

1801.1. Material changes in behavior: A series of changes and events or a change in condition that places the individual at high risk for disruption of placement and requires crisis or emergency interventions.

1801.2. Intervention by law enforcement: A behavioral event involving law enforcement intervention.

1801.3. Functional or cognitive decline: A change in condition when an individual becomes unable to perform activities of daily living and/or cognitive decline (the gradual loss of thinking abilities such as learning, remembering, paying attention, reasoning) requiring review to determine if

behavior support services are appropriate.

Level 2 Specific Description:
Behavior Support Services Professionals are those whose State license levels and specialized behavior supports training provide the authority to evaluate and develop behavior support plans. Board Certified Behavior Analysts also have the authority and expertise to evaluate within the scope of the population and service. Specific tasks performed by Level 2 practitioners include comprehensive functional behavioral assessments, direct observation, data analysis, and graphing, design and development of behavior support plans, review of the effectiveness of interventions, and plan adjustments. Level 2 practitioners may also provide tasks allowed under Level 1 description such as competency-based training of a behavior support plan to staff and/or family, fidelity monitoring of plan implementation, data collection and tracking but may delegate these tasks to a Level 1 practitioner.

All Level 2 behavior support service professionals must be approved by DBHDD.

Level 1 Specific Description:
Behavior Support Services Professionals work with moderate and high-risk individuals. While Level 1 Behavior professionals work with high-risk individuals, they do so under the supervision and collaboration of a Level 2 Behavior Professional. Specific tasks performed by Level 1 practitioners include staff and/or family competency-based training, behavior observation, and ongoing communication with families and staff related to plan interventions and behavior tracking. Specific tasks performed by Level I practitioners include staff and/or family competency-based training of a behavior support plan, behavior observation, fidelity monitoring of plan implementation, and ongoing communication with families and staff related to plan interventions, and behavior data collection and tracking, and coordination with the supervising Level 2 Behavior Support Service provider.

All level 1 behavior support service professionals must be approved by DBHDD.

All enrolled providers, agency-based or individual, will comply with DBHDD standards and policies which outline individual rights, core values, and the philosophy of service delivery within a person-centered model and consistent with empirical knowledge and best practices related to positive behavior supports.

Expectations/Outcomes:
A comprehensive functional behavior assessment is conducted to determine the causes of the challenging behaviors and develop positive behavior support plans that reflect the best practice standards for Behavioral Supports in the delivery of services and Person-Centered Values.

Positive behavior support plans are developed in collaboration with all appropriate clinical team members, family/guardians, and the individual. All professional and/or supervisory staff responsible for direct training of provider staff/informal care providers and for monitoring of program implementation receive competency-based training on implementation and monitoring of positive behavior support plans.

Positive behavior support plans utilize approaches that are person centered, strength based, teach desired replacement behaviors, and are valued by the clinical team members, family/guardian, and the individual.

Positive behavior support plans utilize non-punitive, non-restrictive procedures and interventions.

Positive behavior support plans focus on analyzing the function of challenging behavior to identify, teach new skills, and strengthen prosocial alternatives and increase the individual's ability to interact appropriately and effectively in the least restrictive and natural environment.

Positive behavior support plans are based on empirical data, observation and data/documentation and take into consideration and account for the role that medical and environmental factors play in the manifestation of challenging behaviors.

Implemented positive behavior support plans are monitored on a regularly scheduled basis and reviewed for efficacy and needed adjustments and modifications are made in a timely manner.

Implemented positive behavior support plans can be empirically demonstrated within a reasonable amount of time to be effective in achieving established goal(s) of improving quality of life for the individual and realistic in terms of the individual's ability to master the necessary skill(s).

Positive Behavior Support Plans will be discontinued when non-restrictive procedures are no longer employed, and program objective(s)/goal(s) are met.

1802. Requirements for Enrollment and Participation

1802.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Positive Behavioral Supports Services individual providers must meet the following requirements:

1802.1.1. Provider Qualification Level 2- Individual providers of Positive behavior Support services Level 2 must meet the following requirements at enrollment and continued service enrollment:

1802.1.1.1. Education/Training

1802.1.1.1.1. Minimum of a Master' Degree in psychology, behavior analysis, education, counseling,

social work, or Board Certified Behavior Analyst and two years' experience;

Or

1802.1.1.2. Licensure/certification in one of the following categories:

1802.1.1.2.1. Licensure:

1802.1.1.2.1.1. Psychologist (O.C.G.A. § 43-39-7)

1802.1.1.2.1.2. Licensed Professional Counselor (O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-7)

1802.1.1.2.1.3. Licensed Clinical Social Worker (O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-7)

1802.1.1.2.1.4. Psychiatrist (O.C.G.A. § 43-1-32)

Or

1802.1.1.2.2. Certification:

1802.1.1.2.2.1. Board Certified Behavior Analyst (certified through the Behavior Analyst

Certificatio
n Board)

1802.1.1.3. Other Standard:

1802.1.1.3.1. Specialized training and/or experience in applied behavior principles to include functional assessment, data analysis, behavior interventions/replacement behaviors, and risk identification/amelioration.

1802.1.1.3.2. Two years' experience with the identified population, individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, or

1802.1.1.3.3. Staff meets all licensure, educational, and/or certification criteria

1802.1.1.3.4. Documentation of staff monitoring/supervision and training of implementation of behavior support plans

1802.1.1.3.5. Continuing Education Training- Documented completion of 10 hours of annual training related to behavior supports offered through courses, seminars, or conferences and/or training provided by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

1802.1.1.3.6. Criminal records check in accordance with Criminal History Records Checks for Contractors, DBHDD Policy 04-104 (including process for reporting CRC status change);

https://gadbhdd.policystat.com

1802.1.1.3.7. Guidelines Requirement: refer to “Best Practices for Behavioral Supports” found on the DBHDD website and Guidelines for Supporting Adults with Challenging Behaviors in Community Settings.

1802.1.2. Provider Qualifications Level 1 - Individual providers of Positive Behavioral Supports services Level 1 must meet the following requirements at initial enrollment and for continued service approval: (Note: Level 1 Providers will not be enrolled for billing but must be reviewed and approved at this level). Level 1 providers must be supervised by a Level 2 provider.

1802.1.2.1. Education/Training

1802.1.2.1.1. Minimum of a Master’s Degree in psychology, education, counseling, or social work and two years’ experience;

Or

1802.1.2.2. Licensure/certification in one of the following categories:

1802.1.2.2.1. Licensure:

1802.1.2.2.1.1. Psychologist (O.C.G.A. § 43-39-7)

1802.1.2.2.1.2. Licensed Professional Counselor (O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-7)

1802.1.2.2.1.3. Licensed Clinical Social

Worker (O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-7)

1802.1.2.2.1.4. Psychiatrist (O.C.G.A. § 43-1-32)

1802.1.2.2.1.5. Licensed Master Social Worker (O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-7)

1802.1.2.2.1.6. Licensed Associate Professional Counselor (O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-7)

Or

1802.1.2.2.2. Certification:

1802.1.2.2.2.1. Board Certified Behavior Analyst (certified through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board)

1802.1.2.2.2.2. Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (certified through the

behavior Analyst Certification Board)

1802.1.2.3. Other Standard:

1802.1.2.3.1. Specialized training and/or experience in basic applied behavior principles to include understanding of plan implementation, data collection, behavior interventions/replacement behaviors, and risk identification/amelioration.

1802.1.2.3.2. Two years' experience with the identified population, individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, or

1802.1.2.3.3. One year of experience with the identified population and supervision by an individual who meets qualifications in Level 2

1802.1.2.3.4. Continuing Education Training- Documented completion of 10 hours of annual training related to behavior supports offered through courses, seminars, or conferences and/or training provided by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

1802.1.2.3.5. Criminal records check in accordance with Criminal History Records Checks for Contractors, 04-104 (including process for reporting CRC status change); https://gadbhdd.policystat.com

1802.1.2.3.6. Guidelines Requirement: refer to “Best Practices for Behavioral Supports” found on the DBHDD website and Guidelines for Supporting Adults with Challenging Behaviors in Community Settings found in Appendix Part III Policy.

1802.2. Agency Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program agency providers must meet the following requirements:

1802.2.1. Types of Agencies

1802.2.1.1. Types of Agencies: Agencies that provide Positive Behavior Supports Level 2 are:

1802.2.1.1.1. Behavior Support Services Agency

1803. Behavioral Support Services Level 2 at Community Access, Prevocational Service Facilities and in Residential Settings

Positive Behavioral Supports Services may be provided at facilities or residential settings however, the Level 1 and Level 2 services must be documented and billed separately. The behavior professional is responsible for observations in the settings where the behavior(s) occurs, amount of time spent providing the service, and documentation of the positive behavior support services provided at the specific facility and offsite service tasks. Examples of documentation of activities provided at a facility, whether a residential or a day service facility include assessment, data collection, observation, training, and on-site monitoring. Examples of documentation of offsite activities include development of the behavior support plan, data analysis/graphing, and tracking outcomes. A complete copy of the Positive Behavior Support Plan and data analysis summaries/graphs must be maintained on site for use in training and review with direct service staff and uploaded into the case management system.

Positive Behavior Support Plans developed for use in supporting the same individual in various settings must include interventions specific to the setting, if applicable, but provide holistic strategies across all settings which may require positive behavior interventions. The Positive Behavior Support Plan is developed for the individual and must be shared/trained across the environments where problem behavior occurs and in which the person receives support for the purpose of assuring consistent implementation.

1804. Documentation Requirements

All Positive Behavior Support Service Providers must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Positive Behavior Support Services:

1804.1. Specific task/activity or assistance provided including assessment, plan development, intervention and methods outline, data tracking methods, analysis and intervention outcomes, training, and monitoring;

1804.1.1. Date, beginning and ending time when the service was delivered;

1804.1.2. Location where the service was delivered;

1804.2. Description of behaviors in observable, measurable terms with frequency, precipitating events, and tracking methods;

1804.2.1. Progress toward individual goal(s), desired outcomes in the individual's action plan;

1804.3. Description of outcomes specific to each intervention to include but not limited to behavioral changes, ability to increase community integration, acquisition of new skills, improvement in quality of life or other positive outcomes.

1804.4. Attestation of service delivery through signature and legible, printed first and last name and title/description of the person providing the service.

1805. Waiver Individual Eligibility Criteria

The need for Behavior Support Services must be related to the individual's clinically validated behavioral needs and be therapeutic in nature.

1805.1. Eligibility Criteria:

Eligibility does not constitute approval or prior authorization of services. Approval and Prior Authorization of Positive Behavior Supports Services are based on a clinical assessment and validation of behavior support needs. A clinical assessment of need for Positive Behavior Support Services is conducted when one or more of the following eligibility criteria are met:

1805.1.1. HRST score of 2 or higher on Item E. Clinical Issues Affecting Daily Life (documentation must indicate behavioral challenges as the clinical issue)

1805.1.2. HRST score of 2 or higher on Item F. Self-Abuse

1805.1.3. HRST score of 2 or higher on Item G. Aggression Toward Others or Property

1805.1.4. HRST score of 3 or higher on Item U. Emergency Room

Visits (documentation must indicate behavioral challenges as the clinical issue)

1805.1.5. HRST score of 2 or higher on Item V. Hospital Admissions (documentation must indicate behavioral challenges as the clinical issue)

1805.1.6. HRST score of 4 on Item Q. Treatments (documentation must indicate 1:1 staffing need due to behavioral issues)

1805.1.7. Placement in Crisis Home in the last 12 months (documentation must indicate that placement was due to behavioral challenges)

1805.1.8. Provision of In-Home Mobile Crisis Services in the last 12 months

1805.1.9. Admission to a Crisis Stabilization Unit in the last 12 months

1805.1.10. Arrest, detention, or intervention by law enforcement in the last 12 months

1805.1.11. SIS score of 7 or higher on Total Score for Section 1B: Behavioral Supports Needed

1806. Prior Approval

Positive Behavior Supports Services must be authorized prior to service delivery at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan (ISP) development and with any ISP version changes

1807. Covered Services

Reimbursable Positive Behavior Supports Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and specified in the approved ISP:

1807.1. Functional assessment of behavior and other diagnostic assessment of behavior.

1807.2. Development and monitoring of Positive Behavior Support plans with specific criteria for the acquisition and maintenance of appropriate behaviors for community living and behavioral intervention for the reduction of challenging behaviors.

1807.3. Training and coaching paid and unpaid supporters on recommended interventions and outcomes tracking.

1807.4. Intervention modalities related to the identified behavioral needs of the individual.

1807.5. Individual specific skills or replacement behavior acquisition training.

1807.6. Family and/or direct support staff education and training on Positive Behavior Supports.

1808. Non-Covered Services

Services that duplicate any family education or training provided through Natural Supports Training (NST) Services.

Services that occur simultaneously or on the same day as NST Services.

Services in a hospital.

Restrictive behavioral interventions, including chemical or mechanical restraints and seclusion, prohibited by state law or regulations.

Transportation to and from these services is not included in the rate.

Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 900

Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

Services provided by a staff member not qualified under Section 1802.

1809. Basis for Reimbursement

See Appendix A for Basis for Reimbursement

1810. Participant-Direction Option

Positive Behavioral Supports Services Level 1 and Level 2 will no longer be available under the self-direction model after February 28, 2023. Individuals in the self-direction model with an ISP that includes Positive Behavioral Supports Services Level 1 or Level 2 must receive a new ISP with an end date no later than February 28, 2023, to confirm that they are authorized to continue to receive Positive Behavioral Support Services through the traditional model.

For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 1200.

1811. Telehealth Option

1811.1. Some components of Behavior Supports Services can be provided via a telehealth modality to supplement in-person service delivery. The following components are the only components that are allowable for a telehealth option: (Rev 10/2022)

1811.1.1. Indirect assessment component for functional behavior assessment;

1811.1.2. Follow up or refresher staff training for behavior support plans;

1811.1.3. Additional fidelity monitoring of plan implementation and oversight;

1811.1.4. Distant site observations of the individual for the purposes of consultation, modeling, and recommendations for interventions to staff/caregivers in real time;

1811.1.5. Team meetings for the purpose of gathering feedback related to behavior support plans effectiveness; and

1811.1.6. Review of data analysis summaries and behavior graphing.

1811.2. Behavior Support Service Providers should evaluate their and the individual's telehealth readiness by meeting the legal, professional, and ethical requirements of these services according to Telehealth related Ethics and Guidelines from The Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI); and The Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP) Practice Parameters for Telehealth Implementation of Applied Behavior Analysis, Second Edition and any additional governing telehealth service delivery guidance.

1811.3. Behavior Support Service Professionals must use two-way, real time [synchronous] interactive communication to exchange clinical/behavioral information with the individual, staff, or family from one site to another via a secure electronic communication system. Providers should have an action plan should technology fail. Telephone calls and store and forward (asynchronous) modalities are not allowed for billable behavior support services. The transmission of the individual's behavioral or medical information from an originating site to the behavior support service provider at a distant site without the presence of the individual is not allowed for billable behavior support services.

1811.4. The Behavior Support Service provider must obtain signed consent to render a service via telehealth from the individual or designated representative as applicable.

1811.5. Behavior Support Service Providers are covered entities and obligated to abide by the HIPAA and state privacy law. Practitioners are required to use only HIPAA compliant platforms while delivering telehealth services. All contracted providers must sign business associate agreements with the operating agency, as required by HIPAA.

1811.6. Telehealth services must be rendered in a quiet environment with optimal view, internet connectivity and sound between sites with attendance of the individual and/or other informants and caregivers as determined by the behavior support service provider for the telehealth service date.

1811.7. General instructions about providing staff training include guidance that any telehealth services with the individual present should protect the individual's dignity and privacy (e.g. individuals are clothed, not observed engaging in daily living activities such as bathing, dressing, toileting, etc.).

1811.8. For more information regarding telehealth guidance, please refer to the telehealth guidance, located at www.mmis.georgia.gov, Click Provider Information-Provider Manuals.

Chapter 1900: THIS CHAPTER-Intentionally Left Blank

Chapter 2000: Specific Program Requirements for Community Access Services Scope of Services

2001. General

Community Access Services has three distinct categories, Community Access Individual, Community Access Participant-Directed Activity, and Community Access Group. Community Access services are individually planned to meet the individual's needs and preferences for active community participation. Community Access services are provided outside the individual's place of residence. These services can occur during the day, the evenings, and weekends. Services include design of activities and environments for the individual to learn and/or use adaptive skills required for active community participation and independent functioning. These activities include training in socialization skills as well as personal assistance such as eating/hydration, ambulation, transferring, personal hygiene, all aspects of toileting, self-administration of medication and other supports not covered under skilled nursing. Community Access services cannot be provided in the individual's home or family home, personal care home, community living arrangement, or group home.

Community Access Individual (CAI) services are provided to an individual, with a one-to-one staff to individual ratio. CAI services are linked to goal(s) and expectations of improvement in skills. The intended outcome of CAI services is to improve the individual's access to the community through increased skills, increased natural supports, and/or less paid supports. CAI services are designed to be teaching and coaching in nature. These services assist the individual in acquiring, retaining, or improving socialization and networking, independent use of community resources, and adaptive skills required for active community participation outside the individual's place of residence. CAI services may include programming to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors. CAI services are not facility-based.

Community Access Group (CAG) services are designed to provide oversight, assist with daily living, socialization, communication, and mobility skills building and supports in a group. CAG services may include programming to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors. Services are provided to groups of individuals, with a staff to individual ratio of one to two or more. Program staffing is determined based on the needs of the individuals in the group.

CAG services may be provided in a facility or a community as appropriate for the skill being taught or specific activity supported. Facility-based services occur at a fixed, non-residential site that is provider owned, controlled, or operated, and provides limited opportunities for individuals to interact with people who do not have a disability other than paid staff. The direct care staff to individual ratio for facility-based services cannot exceed one (1) to ten (10). Community-based services occur in settings that are not facility-based and include opportunities for individuals to interact with people who do not have a disability. The direct care staff to individual ratio for community-based services cannot exceed one (1) to five (5) Community Access Participant-Directed Activity services are for individuals who are participant-directed and participate in authorized community activities as outlined in Section 1705—Covered Services in order to address functional impairment and/or therapeutic needs of the waiver individual.

Community Access Services do not include educational services otherwise available through a program funded under 20 USC Chapter 3, section 1400 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Community Access services must not duplicate or be provided at the same period of the day as Community Living Support, Supported Employment, Prevocational Services (i.e., any vocational or employment activities/training are not allowable under Community Access services) or Transportation services. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver

individual in self-directed services may not provide Community Access services. Community Access services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes.

The COMP Program is intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available. Community Access Services Providers offer (or arrange when needed) any of the standard services listed in section 1705 – Covered Services that are needed by the individuals served and specified in the individual's Individual Service Plans.

2002. Special Requirements of Participation

Effective with June 1, 2009, Individual Service Plans and plans developed thereafter, Community Access Individual Services cannot be provided in facilities.

2002.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP/NOW Program, Community Access Services providers must meet the following requirements:

2002.1.1. Individual providers of Community Access services must:

2002.1.1.1. Be 18 years or older;

2002.1.1.2. Have current CPR and Basic First Aid certifications;

2002.1.1.3. Have the experience, training, education or skills necessary to meet the individual's needs for Community Access services as demonstrated:

2002.1.1.3.1. Direct Support Professional (DSP) certification; or Copy of high school diploma/transcript or General Education Development (GED) diploma; and at least six (6) months of experience providing behavioral health related services to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), or documented

experience providing specific supports to individuals with disabilities.

2002.1.1.4. Agree to or provide required documentation of a criminal records check, prior to providing Community Access services.

2002.1.1.5. Meet transportation requirements in COMP/NOW Part II Chapter 900, Section 905 if transporting individuals.

2002.1.2. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Community Access Services:

2002.1.2.1. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;

2002.1.2.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

2002.1.2.3. Location where the service was delivered;

2002.1.2.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

2002.1.2.5. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

2002.1.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements:

2002.1.3.1. Documentation and other requirements for employees of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP/NOW, Chapter 1200.

2002.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Community Access Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

2002.2.1. Staffing Qualifications and Responsibilities

Provider agencies rendering Community Access Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

2002.2.1.1. A designated agency director. Additional information regarding director qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701

2002.2.1.2. Duties of the Agency Director include, but are not limited to:

2002.2.1.2.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

2002.2.1.2.2. Manages the use of agency funds;

2002.2.1.2.3. Ensures the development and updating of required policies of the agency;

2002.2.1.2.4. Manages the employment of staff and professional contracts for the agency;

2002.2.1.2.5. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

2002.2.2. At least one agency employee or professional under contract with the agency must:

2002.2.2.1. Be a Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) (for definition, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP (Appendix I);

2002.2.2.2. Have responsibility for overseeing the delivery of Community Access Services to individuals.

2002.2.3. The same individual may serve as both the agency director and the Developmental Disability Professional

A Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) (for definition, Provider

Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf

2002.2.3.1. A minimum of one (1) direct care staff member for every ten (10) individuals served in Group Community Access Services and minimum of one (1) direct care staff members for everyone (1) individual served in Individual Community Access Services;

2002.2.3.2. Direct Care Staff must:

2002.2.3.2.1. Be 18 years or older;

2002.2.3.2.2. Have a high school diploma or equivalent (General Educational Development or GED) or have a minimum score of 75 on the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (STOFHLA) or Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (TOFHLA); (Rev 04/2022 Rev 10/2022)

2002.2.3.2.3. Meet transportation requirements in COMP and NOW, Part II Chapter 900, section 905 if transporting individuals.

2002.2.3.2.4. Be provided with a basic orientation prior to direct contact with individuals and show competence in:

2002.2.3.2.4.1. The purpose and scope of Community Access Services, including related policies and procedures

;

2002.2.3.2.4.2. Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken;

2002.2.3.2.4.3. Rights and responsibilities of individuals;

2002.2.3.2.4.4. Requirements for recognizing and reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any individual:

2002.2.3.2.4.5. To the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;

2002.2.3.2.4.6. Within the organization;

2002.2.3.2.4.7. To appropriate regulatory or licensing agencies; and

2002.2.3.2.4.8. To law

enforceme
nt agencies

2002.2.3.3. Duties of the Direct Care Staff include, but are not limited to:

2002.2.3.3.1. Provides direct assistance in self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills training, retention and improvement to individual individuals and groups of individuals;

2002.2.3.3.2. Provides direct assistance in training, retraining or improving the access to and use of community resources by individual individuals or groups of individuals;

2002.2.3.3.3. Implements the behavioral support plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors;

2002.2.3.3.4. Provides active support and direct assistance in individuals' participation in community social, recreational and leisure activities;

2002.2.3.3.5. Provides individual-specific assistance, such as assistance with personal care which includes but is not limited to eating/hydration, ambulation, transferring, personal hygiene, all aspects of toileting, self-administration of medication and other supports not covered under skilled nursing.

2002.2.3.3.6. The agency has adequate direct care staff with First Aid and CPR certifications to assure having at least one staff person with these certifications on duty during the provision of facility-based or community-based Community Access services.

2002.2.3.4. The type and number of all other staff associated with the organization (such as contract staff, consultants) are:

2002.2.3.4.1. Properly trained or credentialed in the professional field as required;

2002.2.3.4.2. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individual as required;

2002.2.3.4.3. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

2002.2.3.5. National criminal records check (NCIC) documentation for all employees and any volunteers who have direct care, treatment, or custodial responsibilities for individuals served by the agency.

2002.2.4. Agency Policies and Procedures - Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of Community Access services, which follow the Standards for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities refer to Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW.

2002.2.5. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Community Access Services:

2002.2.5.1. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;

2002.2.5.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

2002.2.5.3. Location where the service was delivered;

2002.2.5.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

2002.2.5.5. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 1200.

2002.2.6. Co-Employer Provider Agencies: Co-Employer Provider Agencies cannot provide facility-based Community Access Service.

2002.2.7. Community Access and Other Services in the Same Facility:

2002.2.7.1. Providers rendering facility-based Community Access and other services (e.g., Prevocational Services and adult therapy services) can provide these services in the same facility; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

2002.2.7.2. Providers may grant access to other Medicaid providers for the provision of services at the facility; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

2002.2.8. Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must utilize methods, materials, and settings that meet the following:

2002.2.8.1. Set positive expectations for life

experiences of people with disabilities, which result in enhanced personal independence and productivity, greater active community participation, and/or increased community integration;

2002.2.8.2. Facilitate the provision of individual-specific supports through a supports network;

2002.2.8.3. Are appropriate to the chronological age of individuals;

2002.2.8.4. Are culturally normative.

2002.2.9. Providers must meet the following requirements for staff-to-individual ratios:

2002.2.9.1. Facility-Based Group Community Access Services: a staff to individuals' ratio of one to two or more, not to exceed one (1) to ten (10). The staff to individual ratio may be more intense than the upper limit allowed; the actual ratio must be as indicated by the individualized needs of the individuals. (Rev 01/2025)

Community-Based Group Community Access Services: a staff to individual ratio of one to two or more, not to exceed one (1) to five (5). The staff to individual ratio may be more intense than the upper limit allowed; the actual ratio must be as indicated by the individualized needs of the individuals.

Additional details about funded staffing ratios can be found at: https://www.healthmanagement.com/burns-reports/georgia-waiver-rates/.

2002.2.9.2. Individual Community Access Services: a one-to-one staff to individual ratio.

2002.2.10. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Agency providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 603).

2002.2.11. Physical Environment

Providers who render facility-based Community Access Services must provide these services in a facility that meets the following requirements:

2002.2.11.1. Accessibility: Is accessible to and usable by individuals and meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements for facilities.

2002.2.11.2. Building Construction and Maintenance: Is constructed, arranged, and maintained so as to provide adequately for health, safety, access, and wellbeing of the individuals.

2002.2.11.3. Building Codes: Is in compliance with all local building codes and other applicable codes;

2002.2.11.4. Lighting: Provides adequate lighting for individuals' activities and safety;

2002.2.11.5. Ventilation: Is adequately ventilated at all times by either mechanical or natural means to provide fresh air and the control of unpleasant odors;

2002.2.11.6. Floor Space: Has adequate floor space to safely and comfortably accommodate the number of individuals for all activities and services provided in that space;

2002.2.11.7. Furnishings: Has sufficient furniture for use by individuals, which provide comfort and safety; are appropriate for population served, including any individuals with physical, visual, and mobility limitations; and provide adequate seating and table space for individual activities in the facility, including dining if applicable; Is accessible to and usable by individuals and meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements for facilities.

2002.2.11.8. Environmental/Sanitation: Is in good repair and clean inside and outside of the facility, including being free from liter, extraneous materials, unsightly or injurious accumulations of items and free from pest and rodents;

2002.2.11.9. Temperature Conditions: Has an adequate central heating and cooling system or its

equivalent at temperature ranges that are consistent with the individual health needs and comfort of individuals:

2002.2.11.10. Equipment Maintenance: Maintains all essential mechanical, electrical, and individual activity, care and support equipment in safe operating condition;

2002.2.11.11. Drinking Fountain: Must have drinking fountain(s) approved by the Georgia DBHDD, Division of Public Health or provide access to single disposable cups to individuals, with individuals disposing of the used cups immediately after use;

2002.2.11.12. Restrooms: Has a minimum of at least two toilets and lavatories available, with accessibility for individuals with physical and mobility limitations, including installed grab bars;

2002.2.11.13. Individual Activities and Dining Space: Has one or more clean, orderly, and appropriate furnished rooms of adequate size designated for individual activities and, if applicable, dining. If the facility has a single room for individual activities and dining, the room provides sufficient space to accommodate both activities without interfering with each other.

2002.2.11.14. Medication Storage: Assures that medications are:

2002.2.11.14.1. Stored under lock and key at all times. A staff member may keep medications needed for frequent or emergency use. The provider stores medications that require refrigeration in a locked container in the refrigerator;

2002.2.11.14.2. Kept in original containers with original labels intact or in labeled bubble packs from a pharmacy;

2002.2.11.14.3. Handled in accordance with current applicable State laws and regulations.

2002.2.11.15. Documentation of Self-Administration of Medications: The facility maintains documentation of all self-administration of medications supervised by facility staff. The documentation record must include the name of the medication, dosage, date, time, and name of the staff person who assists the individuals in the self-administration of medications by the individual.

2002.2.11.16. Evacuation Plan: The facility formulates a plan for evacuation of the building in case of fire or disaster. This plan is posted in a clearly visible place in each room. All employees are instructed and kept informed of their duties under the plan.

2002.2.11.17. Food Services: The following only apply if the facility stores, prepares, or distributes food:

2002.2.11.17.1. The facility observes and complies with all of the Rules of Department of Human Services (DHS), Public Health, Chapter 290-5-14, Food Service and any local health ordinances when engaged in the storage, preparation, and distribution of food.

Note. The Department will allow the facility to be exempted from the Food Service Permit requirement if all the facility does is use a microwave to heat up food participants bring to the facility. This exception is allowed only if:

2002.2.11.17.1.1. The microwave oven is clean, in good repair, and free

of unsanitary conditions

2002.2.11.17.1.2. The microwave oven is allowed for warming of permitted foods and beverages based on the provider's internal policies and procedures.

2002.2.11.17.1.3. All food and utensils are handled in a sanitary manner.

2002.2.11.18. Meals and snacks are prepared either on site or under subcontract with an outside vendor who agrees to comply with the food and nutritional requirements. The facility posts its current Food Service Permit and inspection report or the subcontracted vendor's current Food Service Permit and inspection report.

2002.2.11.19. The facility has a designated kitchen area for receiving food, facilities for warming or

preparing cold food, and clean–up facilities including hot and cold running water. The facility provides palatable, nutritious and attractive meals and snacks that meet the nutritional requirements of each member.

2002.2.12. Transportation: The individual's family or representative may choose to transport the member to the Community Access facility. Transportation is required between point of origin and activities in settings primarily utilized by people with disabilities (a reasonable amount of transportation not to exceed one hour per day, is billable). Transportation to and from the facility or hub (CAG-Community) at the beginning and end of day that is billed as CAG can be delivered, when appropriate to the support needs of the individual, at the 1:10 facility or hub. Point of origin is defined as any location that individuals are available for pick-up that is safe and appropriate for the individual based on the approved Individual Service Plan.

2002.2.13. Individual Site Enrollment: Part I Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids require that each provider enroll at each location where services are provided to Medicaid members. Each individual, facility-based Community Access site must be individually enrolled. Individual site enrollment applies only to facility-based Community Access sites.

2003. Special Eligibility Conditions

2003.1. Community Access Services are only for individuals for whom the service is not available under a program funded under 20 USC Chapter 3, section 1400 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

2003.2. The need for Community Access Services must be related to the individual disability services and be therapeutic in nature.

2004. Prior Approval

Community Access services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes.

2005. Covered Services

Reimbursable Community Access Services for the distinct categories include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

2005.1. Community Access Group

2005.1.1. Services in facility-based and community-based settings outside the individual's own or family home or any other residential setting

2005.1.2. Design and development of activities in any location outside the individual's own or family home or any other residential setting that assist the individual to learn, use, and/or maintain adaptive skills required for active community participation and independent functioning, which includes services provided on behalf of a specific individual as well as direct services.

2005.1.3. Assistance in acquiring, retaining, or improving self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills for active community participation and independent functioning outside the individual's own or family home, such as assisting the individual with money management, teaching appropriate shopping skills, and teaching nutrition and diet information.

2005.1.4. Assistance in acquiring, retaining, or improving access to and use of community resources that increases participation in integrated community activities, such as training and active support to use public transportation, banks, automated tellers, and restaurants.

2005.1.5. Provision of oversight and assistance with daily living, socialization, communication, and mobility skills building and supports in a group.

2005.1.6. Implementation of behavioral support plans to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors.

2005.1.7. Recreational and leisure activities that support the individual's active, local community participation) and therapeutic in nature, such as teaching an individual how to participate in and take advantage of community social and recreational activities or providing active support for an individual in community recreational and leisure activities.

2005.1.8. Facilitating volunteer roles in the community and participation in self-advocacy type activities.

2005.1.9. Other related, individual-specific assistance, such as assistance with personal care and self-administration of medication, and nursing services and health maintenance activities as indicated in the approved Individual Service Plan.

2005.1.10. Transportation is required between point of origin and activities in settings primarily utilized by people with

disabilities (a reasonable amount of transportation, defined as up to one hour per day, is billable, except for participants receiving Community Residential Alternative (CRA) services as the CRA provider is expected to transport the participant to and from their CAG program). Point of origin is defined as any location that individuals are available for pick up that is safe and appropriate for the individual based on the approved Individual Service Plan. When transportation is to and from other community destinations, separate payment for transportation only occurs when the COMP's distinct Transportation Services are authorized.

2005.1.11. Transportation of an individual that occurs during the course of Community Access services and is aligned with an individual's service plan and goals.

2005.2. Community Access Individual

2005.2.1. Services in non-facility, community-based settings take place outside the individual's own or family home or any other residential setting.

2005.2.2. Design and development of activities in any non-facility, community- based location outside the individual's own or family home or any other residential setting that assist the individual to learn, use, and/or maintain adaptive skills required for active community participation and independent functioning, which includes services provided on behalf of a specific individual as well as direct services.

2005.2.3. Assistance in acquiring, retaining, or improving socialization, and adaptive skills for active community participation and independent functioning outside the individual's own or family home, such as assisting the individual with money management, teaching appropriate shopping skills, using public transportation, and teaching nutrition and diet information.

2005.2.4. Assistance in acquiring, retaining, or improving socialization and networking, independent use of community resources, and adaptive skills required for active community participation outside the individual's place of residence.

2005.2.5. Individual-specific teaching and coaching of skills for access to the community, including communication, mobility, money management, and shopping skills.

2005.2.6. Implementation of behavioral support plans to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire

alternative adaptive skills and behaviors.

2005.2.7. Teaching and coaching an individual how to participate in and take advantage of community social and recreational activities.

2005.2.8. Facilitating volunteer roles in the community and participation in self-advocacy type activities.

2005.2.9. Other related, individual-specific assistance, such as assistance with personal care and self-administration of medications, and nursing services, and health maintenance activities as indicated in the approved Individual Service Plan.

2005.2.10. Transportation of an individual that occurs during the course of Community Access services and is aligned with an individual's service plan and goals.

2005.3. Community Access Participant-Directed Activities

2005.3.1. Services for individuals who are participant-directed and participate in community activities designed to address functional impairment and/or therapeutic needs of the waiver individual, which include therapeutic camp programs, therapeutic support groups, and physical fitness and weight reduction programs.

2005.3.2. Providers must meet the following requirements for staff-to-individual ratios:

2005.3.2.1. Group Community Access Services: a staff to individuals ratio of one to two or more, not to exceed one (1) to ten (10). The staff to individual ratio may be more intense than the upper limit allowed; the actual ratio must be as indicated by the individualized needs of the individuals.

2005.3.2.2. Individual Community Access Services: a one-to-one staff to individual ratio.

2005.3.3. Physical Environment

Providers who render facility-based Community Access Services must provide these services in a facility that meets the following requirements:

2005.3.3.1. Accessibility: Is accessible to and usable by individuals and meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements for facilities.

2005.3.3.2. Building Construction and Maintenance: Is constructed, arranged, and maintained so as to provide adequately for health, safety, access, and wellbeing of the individuals.

2005.3.3.3. Building Codes: Is in compliance with all local building codes and other applicable codes;

2005.3.3.4. Lighting: Provides adequate lighting for individuals' activities and safety;

2005.3.3.5. Ventilation: Is adequately ventilated at all times by either mechanical or natural means to provide fresh air and the control of unpleasant odors;

2005.3.3.6. Floor Space: Has adequate floor space to safely and comfortably accommodate the number of individuals for all activities and services provided in that space;

2005.3.3.7. Furnishings: Has sufficient furniture for use by individuals, which provide comfort and safety; are appropriate for population served, including any individuals with physical, visual, and mobility limitations; and provide adequate seating and table space for individual activities in the facility, including dining if applicable; Is accessible to and usable by individuals and meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements for facilities.

2005.3.3.8. Environmental/Sanitation: Is in good repair and clean inside and outside of the facility, including being free from liter, extraneous materials, unsightly or injurious accumulations of items and free from pest and rodents;

2005.3.3.9. Temperature Conditions: Has an adequate central heating and cooling system or its equivalent at temperature ranges that are consistent with the individual health needs and comfort of individuals:

2005.3.3.10. Equipment Maintenance: Maintains all essential mechanical, electrical, and individual activity, care and support equipment in safe operating condition;

2005.3.3.11. Drinking Fountain: Must have drinking fountain(s) approved by the Georgia DBHDD, Division of Public Health or provide access to single disposable cups to individuals, with individuals disposing of the used cups immediately after use;

2005.3.3.12. Restrooms: Has a minimum of at least two toilets and lavatories available, with accessibility for individuals with physical and mobility limitations, including installed grab bars;

2005.3.3.13. Individual Activities and Dining Space: Has one or more clean, orderly, and appropriate furnished rooms of adequate size designated for individual activities and, if applicable, dining. If the facility has a single room for individual activities and dining, the room provides sufficient space to accommodate both activities without interfering with each other;

2005.3.3.14. Medication Storage: Assures that medications are:

2005.3.3.14.1. Stored under lock and key at all times. A staff member may keep medications needed for frequent or emergency use. The provider stores medications that require refrigeration in a locked container in the refrigerator;

2005.3.3.14.2. Kept in original containers with original labels intact or in labeled bubble packs from a pharmacy;

2005.3.3.14.3. Handled in accordance with current applicable State laws and regulations.

2005.3.3.15. Documentation of Self-Administration of Medications: The facility maintains documentation of all self-administration of medications supervised by facility staff. The documentation record must include the

name of the medication, dosage, date, time, and name of the staff person who assists the individuals in the self-administration of medications by the individual.

2005.3.3.16. Evacuation Plan: The facility formulates a plan for evacuation of the building in case of fire or disaster. This plan is posted in a clearly visible place in each room. All employees are instructed and kept informed of their duties under the plan.

2005.3.3.17. Food Services: The following only apply if the facility stores, prepares, or distributes food:

2005.3.3.17.1. The facility observes and complies with all of the Rules of Department of Human Services (DHS), Public Health, Chapter 290-5-14, Food Service and any local health ordinances when engaged in the storage, preparation, and distribution of food.

Note. The Department will allow the facility to be exempted from the Food Service Permit requirement if all the facility does is use a microwave to heat up food participants bring to the facility.

This exception is allowed only if:

2005.3.3.17.1.1. The microwave oven is clean, in good repair, and free of unsanitary conditions

2005.3.3.17.1.2. The microwave oven is allowed for warming of

permitted foods and beverages based on the provider's internal policies and procedures.

2005.3.3.17.1.3. All food and utensils are handled in a sanitary manner.

2005.3.3.17.2. Meals and snacks are prepared either on site or under subcontract with an outside vendor who agrees to comply with the food and nutritional requirements. The facility posts its current Food Service Permit and inspection report or the subcontracted vendor's current Food Service Permit and inspection report.

2005.3.3.17.3. The facility has a designated kitchen area for receiving food, facilities for warming or preparing cold food, and clean–up facilities including hot and cold running water. The facility provides palatable, nutritious and attractive meals and snacks that meet the nutritional requirements of each member.

2005.3.4. Transportation: The individual's family or representative may choose to transport the member to the Community Access facility. Transportation is required between point of origin and activities in setting primary utilized by people

with disabilities (a reasonable amount of transportation, defined as up to one hour per day, is billable). Point of origin is defined as any location that individuals are available for pick-up that is safe and appropriate for the individual based on the approved Individual Service Plan.

2006. Non-Covered Services

2006.1. Educational services otherwise available through a program funded under 20 USC Chapter 3, section 1400 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), including private school tuition, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in schools, school supplies, and tutors.

2006.2. Activities, training, or services provided in the individual's home or family home, or host home/life sharing arrangement, foster home, personal care home, community living arrangement, group home, or any other residential setting."

2006.3. Medically related services that are not allowable by State law, rules, and regulations.

2006.4. Admission fees, Memberships, Subscriptions, Donations, or related items.

2006.5. Registration Fees unless participant-directed services.

2006.6. Out of state camps.

2006.7. Community Access services must not duplicate or be provided at the same time of the same day as Community Living Support, Supported Employment, Prevocational Services or Transportation Services.

2006.8. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 900.

2006.9. Community Access Services may not be delivered to an individual by the same staff person—whether the service is being delivered by the same agency or two different agencies—who also provides the individual Community Residential Alternative Services or by the individual/family providing the individual a host home/life sharing arrangement.

2006.10. Non-covered health maintenance activities are defined in the Rules and Regulations for Proxy Caregivers Used in Licensed Healthcare Facilities, Chapter 111-8-100.

2006.11. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

2007. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rates for Community Access Services are found in Appendix A.

2008. Participant-Direction Options

2008.1. Individuals can choose the self-direction or co-employer options with Community Access Services.

2008.2. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider of Community Access Services.

2008.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 2100: THIS CHAPTER- Intentionally Left Blank

Chapter 2200: Specific Program Requirements for Community Living Support (CLS) Services Scope of Services

2201. General Description of CLS Services

Community Living Support (CLS) Services are individually designed to support the acquisition, retention, or improvement of life skills to facilitate residence in a waiver individual's own or family home. Personal care/assistance may be a component part of CLS services but the focus of personal assistance should be teaching the skills related to activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living. CLS services are offered to individuals who live in their own or family homes.

CLS services may include any of the following:

2201.1. Training and assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, dressing toileting, and transferring,

2201.2. Teaching and assistance in performance of instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), such as personal hygiene, light housework, laundry, meal preparation, grocery and other shopping, using the telephone, and medication and money management.

2201.3. Oversight and supervision of individuals unable to be left alone as assessed by DBHDD staff and under available funding.

CLS services include any transportation delivered to facilitate the individual's participation in grocery or personal shopping, banking and other community activities that support the goal(s) of the waiver individual and /or family. CLS services may include health-related activities such as basic first aid, arranging and/or transporting waiver individuals to medical appointments, accompanying individuals on medical appointments, tracking and documenting health-related daily activities such as intake and output, reminding individuals to take medication, assisting with or supervising self-administration of medication and other tasks that do not require the skill level of a licensed professional. Other tasks may be assigned by a licensed professional under the Proxy Caregiver Rule: Chapter 111-8-100 Rules and Regulations for Proxy Caregivers Used in Licensed Healthcare Facilities.

Direct personal care/assistance may be a component part of CLS services but should not be the only service provided to an individual. Rather, teaching skills that promote self-performance of the activities is the focus in all instances feasible. The frequency and duration of CLS service is designed to address specific needs determined by the Supports Intensity Scale, the Health Risk Screening Tool, and other individual-centered assessment information. Medically related services do not include direct nursing services, if required to treat, evaluate, or monitor specific conditions. (Policies and Procedures for Nursing Services directly reimbursed through COMP Waiver Program are outlined in Part III Policies and Procedures for Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program.)

CLS services are reimbursed in 15-minute unit increments using three distinct categories: basic, extended, and shared CLS defined as follows:

2201.4. Basic CLS is defined as service delivered during visits of 11 or fewer units (2.75 hours) of service per visit. Note: CLS service delivered in two or more distinct visits per day may be billed under Basic CLS to accommodate travel required between visits.

2201.5. Extended CLS is billed for visits of more than 12 units (3.00 hours) per visit.

2201.6. Shared CLS reimbursement includes two- and three-person group rates. Shared CLS is designed to accommodate voluntary home-sharing of waiver individuals, allowing one staff person to provide CLS services to groups of two or three waiver individuals.

Note: Shared CLS is provided to waiver individuals in their own leased or owned single-family home or apartment.

Personal Assistance Retainer

The personal assistance retainer is a component of Community Living Support Services designed to allow continued payment for Community Living Support services while an individual is hospitalized or otherwise away from the home. Staff may not provide services in a hospital or nursing home setting but are retained in order to ensure stability of staff upon the individual's return home. The retainer allows continued payment to direct support caregivers for up to thirty (30) days per calendar year for absences of individual from his or her home.

2202. Special Requirements of Participation

2202.1. DD Service Agencies rendering Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements: (Rev 04/2018)

2202.1.1. Designated agency director. Additional information regarding director qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701.

2202.1.2. Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) (for definition, Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf

The agency director who meets the qualifications of a Developmental Disability Professional may serve both roles provided the staff members meets the professional qualifications for each role

2202.1.3. Direct Care Staff who must:

2202.1.3.1. Be 18 years or older;

2202.1.3.2. Have a high school diploma or equivalent (General Educational Development or GED) or have a minimum score of 75 on the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (STOFHLA) or Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (TOFHLA). (Rev 04/2022 Rev 10/2022)

2202.1.3.3. Meet transportation requirements in COMP and NOW Part II Chapter 900, section 905 if transporting individuals.

2202.1.3.4. Be provided with a basic orientation prior to direct contact with individuals and show competence in:

2202.1.3.4.1. The purpose and scope of the service to be delivered, including related policies and procedures;

2202.1.3.4.2. Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken;

2202.1.3.4.3. Rights and responsibilities of individuals;

2202.1.3.4.4. Requirements for recognizing and reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any individual:

2202.1.3.4.4.1. To the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;

2202.1.3.4.4.2. Within the organization;

2202.1.3.4.4.3. To appropriate regulatory or licensing agencies; and

2202.1.3.4.4.4. To law enforcement agencies

The agency has adequate direct care staff with First Aid and CPR certifications to assure having at least one staff person with these certifications on duty during the provision of service.

The type and number of all other staff associated with the organization (such as contract staff, consultants) are:

2202.1.3.4.4.5. Properly trained or credentialed in the professional field as required;

2202.1.3.4.4.6. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individuals as required; and

2202.1.3.4.4.7. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

A CLS provider may not provide CLS services in any residential site which is owned, leased, or managed by any of the following:

2202.1.3.4.4.8. a person or entity (including a

partnership, trust, or unincorporated association) with whom the provider, or any owner (whether direct or indirect), officer, principal, agent, or employee of the provider, has a contractual relationship of any kind;

2202.1.3.4.4.9. an entity (including a partnership, trust, or unincorporated association) in which the provider, or any owner (whether direct or indirect), officer, principal, agent, or employee of the provider, has an ownership interest (whether

direct or indirect) or financial interest;

2202.1.3.4.4.10. an entity (including a partnership, trust, or unincorporated association) in which any relative (including relatives by marriage) within four degrees of kinship of any owner (whether direct or indirect), officer, or principal, or agent of the provider, is

2202.1.3.4.4.11. an owner (whether direct or indirect) of the entity;

2202.1.3.4.4.12. an officer or principal of the entity; or

2202.1.3.4.4.13. an agent of the entity with authority to bind the entity;

2202.1.3.4.4.14. a person who is a relative (including relatives by marriage) within four degrees of kinship of any owner (whether direct or indirect), officer, or principal of the provider.

National criminal records check (NCIC) documentation for all employees and any volunteers who have direct care, treatment, or custodial responsibilities for individuals served by the agency pursuant to DBHDD Policy 04-104 and all policy outlined in Part I Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids.

Provider agencies must have available a sufficient number of employees or professionals under contract.

Service-specific staff duties are outlined in the following chapters.

Agency Policies and Procedures: Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of the agency, and which follow the Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities found at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf.

DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 603).

2203. Licensure

Provider agencies that render CLS Services must hold a current Private Home Care Provider License from the Department of Community Health, Healthcare Facilities Regulation Division (HFR). Licensure level must be commensurate with the level of service delivered:

2203.1. Level 2: personal care tasks; and/or

2203.2. Level 3: companion or sitter tasks

Please refer to https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/hfrd/hfrd-laws-regulations for information about specific licensure regulations.

CLS allows enrollment of agency providers. For more information about provider enrollment, please refer to Part II, Chapters 600 – 1200, Policies and Procedures for Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (Comp) and New Options Waiver Program (Now) General Manual

2204. Supervision and Direct Support Staff Duties

Supervision of Direct Support Staff

All agency providers must comply with staff supervision requirements as defined in Private Home Care Licensure Rules.
Duties of Direct Support Staff include, but are not limited to:

2204.1. Provide direct assistance to the individual in self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills training, retention and improvement;

2204.2. Provide personal care and protective oversight and supervision;

2204.3. Implement the behavioral support plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors;

2204.4. Provide assistance and training on independent community living skills, such as personal hygiene, light housework, laundry, meal preparation, transportation, grocery shopping, using the telephone, and medication and money management.

2204.5. Provide assistance in completing Outcomes and Goal(s) according to the current Individual Support Plan.

Other Requirements
The agency has adequate direct care staff with First Aid and CPR certifications to assure having at least one staff person with these certifications on duty during the provision of services.

Training and/or experience requirements for CLS services are defined in Rules and Regulations for Private Home Care Providers, Section 111-8-65-.09 (5)(c), (d) and #6 in the same section found at https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/hfrd/hfrd-laws-regulations.

CLS services must be provided by an employee of the enrolled CLS provider agency or by a family-selected employee under the participant-directed model.

2205. Special Eligibility Conditions

2205.1. CLS services are provided only to individuals who require in-home supports.

2205.2. The need for CLS services must be reflected through assessed needs described as tasks or activities in the approved Individual Support Plan (ISP).

2205.3. In order to remain eligible for CLS services, and as a condition of participation in those services, an individual must allow visits by his or her Support Coordinator for all purposes for which Support Coordinator visits are permitted by DCH and/or DBHDD policies and standards. Repeated refusals to allow visits by his or her Support Coordinator may result in the individual's loss of eligibility for CLS services and the consequent loss of those services.

2206. Prior Approval

Community Living Support Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office at least annually in conjunction with reevaluation of need, development of the initial and annual Individual Support Plan and with any ISP version changes completed based upon a change in condition or circumstances.

2207. Covered Services

Reimbursable Community Living Support Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified and described in the approved ISP:

2207.1. Social and leisure skills development that assists the individual in planning and engaging in social and leisure activities as a part of home living.

2207.2. Adaptive skills development that assists the individual in community activities that are a part of home living in a community, such as communication, community navigation, mobility, understanding community signs/clues, and safety in the community.

2207.3. Personal care and protective oversight and supervision in the person's own or family home as a component part of the services.

2207.4. CLS protective oversight and supervision that are services provided by staff present in the individual's own or family home, which include protective care and watchful monitoring activities of individual's functioning, the making and reminding an individual of medical appointments, and intervention if a crisis arises.

2207.5. Training in and personal care/assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, dressing, toileting, and transferring, and with instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), such as personal hygiene, light housework, laundry, meal preparation, transportation, grocery shopping, using the telephone, and medication and money management.

2207.6. Medically related services that are not required to be provided by a licensed professional under State law, rules, and regulations. Examples of medically-related services include basic first aid, arranging and transporting individuals to medical appointments, accompanying individuals on medical appointments, documenting an individual's food and/or liquid intake or output, supervision in the area of nutrition and self-administration of medications and other medically related services including health maintenance activities.

2207.7. Implementation of the behavioral support plan of an individual to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors.

2207.8. Transportation required for individuals living in their own home to facilitate the individual's participation in grocery or personal shopping, banking, and other community activities that support continued home living. Georgia's Non-Emergency Transportation System may be used for medical appointment transportation with proper supervision and assistance by the CLS provider or family.

2207.9. CLS services may be provided in the following living environments:

2207.10. The waiver individual's owned or leased home

2207.11. the home of a family member or other natural/informal supporter

2208. Non-Covered Services

2208.1. Community Living Support services may not be delivered to a person living in a home leased or owned by the service delivery agency, by an employee or contractor of the service delivery agency, or by support staff hired under the participant-direction model with the exception of Family Relative/Family Caregiver Hire as set forth in PART II CHAPTERS 600 – 1200 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR COMP & NOW Chapters 900 and 1200. (Rev 07/2023)

2208.2. Community Living Support services may not be delivered in a rental room/apartment/home for the individual where access to the kitchen is restricted and there is no access to at least one bathroom.

Community Living Support services may not be delivered in foster homes, host homes, personal care homes, community living arrangements, or any other home/residence other than the individual's own or family home. but in no instance, can the individual's own home or family home be a licensed Personal Care Home, a licensed Community Living Arrangement, or a host home/life sharing arrangement that provides Community Residential Alternative Services with the exception of a setting that is pending approval by DBHDD or DCH to be licensed and approved as a Community Living Arrangement. (Rev 01/2022)

2208.3. Educational and related services needed by children for whom the Department of Education is responsible.

2208.4. CLS services that duplicate or are provided at the same time of the same day as Community Access or Supported Employment services.

2208.5. Payment is not made for the cost of room and board, including the cost of building maintenance, upkeep and improvement.

2208.6. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 900.

2208.7. Medically related services that cannot be provided by non-licensed persons according to State law, rules, and regulations.

2208.8. Payment is not made for Personal Assistance Retainer outside of scheduled days and units per day for Community Living Support Services as specified in the ISP.

2208.9. Payment of Personal Assistance retainer is not allowable for absences due to services that are reimbursable as other waiver and Medicaid State Plan services except for admissions to a general hospital or nursing facility in accordance with requirements specified below in Section 1908, Basis for Reimbursement.

2208.10. Payment of Personal Assistance retainer beyond allowable days indicated below in Section 1908, Basis for Reimbursement.

2208.11. Non-covered health maintenance activities are defined the Rules and Regulations for Proxy Caregivers Used in Licensed Healthcare Facilities, Chapter 111-8-100.

2208.12. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

Individuals receiving Community Residential Alternative services may not receive CLS services. Exceptions may be authorized through the DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities DBHDD Field Offices on a case-by-case basis documented by an approval letter and maintained by the provider in the individual's record. Exceptions to combination of CLS and residential services may be approved for individuals who are in the process of transitioning from Community Living Support Services to Community Residential Alternative Services due to the individual's transition to adulthood, the aging of the individual's caregivers, and/or to allow the individual to remain in his or her family home for as long as possible. These exceptions are granted on an individual basis with justification and documentation as above. The provision of Community Living Support Services and Community Residential Alternative Services on the same day is never allowed. (Rev 04/2018)

2209. Documentation

2209.1. Documentation of CLS services must include the following elements in the record of each individual:

2209.1.1. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;

2209.1.2. Date and the beginning and ending time of day when the service was delivered;

2209.1.3. Location where the service was delivered;

2209.1.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

2209.1.5. Supervisory note documenting licensure-level required supervision of the direct support personnel;

2209.1.6. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

2209.2. Personal Assistance Retainer Documentation: Providers must document the following in the record of each individual for whom a personal assistance retainer is a component of Community Living Support Habilitation Services:

2209.2.1. Beginning and end date of absence.

2209.2.2. Reason for absence.

2209.2.3. Scheduled days and units per day for Community Living Support Habilitation Services.

2209.2.4. Statement that the staff member has not been reassigned to another waiver individual during the absence.

Note: As of 4/1/17 providers must use the procedure code specified for Personal Assistance Retainer reimbursement.

2209.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation, including Personal Assistance Retainer documentation and other requirements for participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 1200.

2210. Basis for Reimbursement

Reimbursement rates for CLS services are found in Appendix A.

Transportation is included in the rate for CLS services but does not prevent the use of Georgia's Non-emergency Transportation Service for medical appointments.

2211. Participant-Direction Options

2211.1. Individuals can choose the self-direction or co-employer options for delivery of CLS services.

2211.2. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider of CLS services.

2211.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 1200.

2211.4. All CLS services, including CLS delivered through the participant-directed model are provided within the annual maximum.

Chapter 2300: Specific Program Requirements for Community Residential Alternative (CRA) Services- Standard Scope of Services

2301. General Description of CRA Services

Community Residential Alternative (CRA) services are targeted for individuals who require formal support 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. CRA services provide a range of interventions with a particular focus on training and support in one or more of the following areas: eating and drinking, toileting, personal grooming and health care, dressing, communication, interpersonal relationships, mobility, home management, and use of leisure time. CRA services are individually planned and tailored to meet the specific needs of the individual and to accommodate fluctuations in his or her needs for various supports in the areas of functional, healthcare or behavioral services. CRA services are delivered according to level of need which correspond to rate categories which reflect the fact that individuals with more significant needs require more intensive supports. Levels of need, expectations for providers based on level of need, and rate categories are described in greater detail below.

CRA services include assistance with and/or training in activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, grooming, other personal hygiene, feeding, toileting, transferring, and other similar tasks. CRA services may also include training and/or assistance in household care, such as meal preparation, clothes laundering, bed-making, housecleaning, simple home repair, yard care, and other similar tasks designed to increase waiver individuals' independence in self-care skills. Each person must have privacy in his/her sleeping or living unit, including lockable doors, with only the appropriate staff having keys to doors, as needed. People sharing units have a choice of roommates in that setting. Further, people have the freedom to furnish and decorate their sleeping or living units within parameters of the lease or other agreement. Providers must ensure privacy and dignity in accordance with section 618 of the Statewide Transition Plan Manual. Individuals receiving Community Residential Alternative (CRA) services have the same responsibilities and protections from eviction that tenants have under the Georgia landlord/tenant law (O.C.G.A. Title 44, Chapter 7). The CRA provider must provide, and adhere to, a legally enforceable agreement for the unit/dwelling where the individual resides in which landlord/tenant laws apply to the individual's dwelling. The aforementioned written agreement must include language that provides protections regarding eviction processes and appeals comparable to those provided under the Georgia landlord/tenant law.

CRA services consist of medically related services that are not required to be provided by a licensed professional under State laws, rules, and regulations. Examples include basic first aid, arranging and transporting individuals to medical appointments, assisting with therapeutic exercises, and assisting with or supervising self-administration of medication. Medically related services do not include direct nursing services, if required to treat, evaluate, or monitor specific conditions. (Policies and Procedures for Nursing Services directly reimbursed through COMP Waiver Program are outlined in Part III Policies and Procedures for Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program.) CRA activities may also include implementing positive behavioral support plans individually designed to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors.

CRA Services include transportation to all other waiver services specified in the Individual Service Plan and as needed to facilitate the individual's participation in personal shopping, recreation and other community activities.

CRA Services are provided in the following settings, in accordance with the licensure requirements

applicable to those settings: (Rev 10/2023)

2301.1. Community Living Arrangement: provider-operated residence with licensed capacity approval of four or fewer residents.

2301.2. Personal Care Home: provider-operated residence with licensed capacity approval of four or fewer residents.

2301.3. Note: as of July 1, 2010, DBHDD no longer approves additional Personal Care Homes as new CRA sites

2301.4. Child Placing Agency: Provider-operated residence with licensed capacity approval of four or fewer individuals under the age of eighteen.

2301.5. Host Homes/Life Sharing settings: Private residence in a residential area in which the occupant owner or lessee provides Community Residential Alternative services to one or two persons with developmental disabilities (who are not related to the occupant owner or lessee by blood or marriage), under a contract with a DBHDD-enrolled provider agency. In order to provide CRA services in a host home, the DBHDD-enrolled provider agency must have (i) at least one licensed Community Living Arrangement (CLA) site, or (ii) at least one licensed Personal Care Home (PCH); or (iii) a Child Placing Agency (CPA) license. See also Section 2303.3, "Host Home/Life-Sharing Arrangement Requirements," below. However, effective January 1, 2024, an agency that has one or more licensed PCHs, and no licensed CLAs and no CPA license, will not be approved for host home sites unless the agency is already operating one or more host home sites that were approved prior to January 1, 2024.

Individuals receive CRA services in small group settings of four or fewer, in host home/life sharing situations for adults 18 years and above, or foster homes for individuals under the age of 18 years through an approved foster home operating under a licensed Child Placing Agency.

Note: providers with Child Placing Agency licenses may also serve adults in host home/life sharing sites if and as allowed by DBHDD Policy Process for Enrolling, Matching, and Monitoring Host Home/Life-Sharing Sites for DBHDD Developmental Disability Community Service Providers, 02-704.

CRA Services may not be provided to persons living in their own or family homes.

2302. Special Requirements of Participation

2302.1. DD Service Agencies rendering Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

2302.2. Designated agency director. Additional information regarding director qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services,

02-701.

2302.2.1. Duties of the Agency Director include, but are not limited to:

2302.2.1.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

2302.2.1.2. Manages the use of agency funds;

2302.2.1.3. Ensures the development and updating of required policies of the agency;

2302.2.1.4. Manages the employment of staff and professional contracts for the agency;

2302.2.1.5. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

2302.3. A Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) (for definition, Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf

The agency director who meets the qualifications of a Developmental Disability Professional may serve both roles provided the staff members meet the professional qualifications for each role

2302.4. Direct Care Staff must:

2302.4.1. Be 18 years or older;

2302.4.2. Have a high school diploma or equivalent (General Educational Development or GED) or have a minimum score of 75 on the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (STOFHLA) or Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (TOFHLA). (Rev 04/2022)

2302.4.3. Meet transportation requirements in COMP Part II Chapter 900, section 905 if transporting individuals.

2302.4.4. Be provided with a basic orientation prior to direct contact with individuals and show competence in:

2302.4.4.1. The purpose and scope of the service to be delivered, including related policies and procedures;

2302.4.4.2. Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken; and

2302.4.4.3. Rights and responsibilities of individuals

including but not limited to;

2302.4.4.3.1. Requirements for recognizing and reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any individual:

2302.4.4.3.2. To the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;

2302.4.4.3.3. Within the organization; To appropriate regulatory or licensing agencies; and

2302.4.4.3.4. to law enforcement agencies

The agency has adequate direct care staff with First Aid and CPR certifications to assure having at least one staff person with these certifications on duty during the provision of service.

The type and number of all other staff associated with the organization (such as contract staff, consultants) are:

2302.4.4.4. Properly trained or credentialed in the professional field as required;

2302.4.4.5. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individuals as required; and

2302.4.4.6. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

National criminal records check (NCIC) documentation for all employees and any volunteers who have direct care, treatment, or custodial responsibilities for individuals served by the agency pursuant to DBHDD Policy 04-104 and all policy outlined in Part I Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids.

Provider agencies must have available a sufficient number of employees or professionals under contract.

Service-specific staff duties are outlined in the following chapters.

2302.5. Agency Policies and Procedures: Each provider agency must develop

written policies and procedures to govern the operations of the agency, and which follow the Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities found at.

2302.6. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 603).

2303. Licensure and Delivery Settings- CRA services can only be delivered when proper service licensing is in place.

If the provider operates any site for which the provider has a Community Living Arrangement (CLA) license, then the provider may deliver Community Residential Alternative services at that site. For more information regarding CLA licenses see: https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/be-connected/licensure-information

If the provider operates any site for which the provider has a Personal Care Home license, then the provider may deliver Community Residential Services as that site. For more information regarding PCH license see: https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/hfrd/hfrd-laws-regulations. As of July 1, 2010, DBHDD no longer approves additional Personal Care Homes as new CRA sites.

A provider may operate one or more Host Home/Life Sharing site if the provider has either (i) at least one licensed CLA site or (ii) a valid Child Placing Agency license. Host Home sites must be approved and operated in accordance with DBHDD Policy 02-704 Process for Enrolling, Matching, and Monitoring Host Home/Life-Sharing Sites for DBHDD Developmental Disability Community Service Providers. See also Section 2303.3, "Host Home/Life-Sharing Arrangement Requirements," below.

2303.1. Supervision and Direct Support Staff Duties

2303.1.1. Supervision of Direct Support Staff

CRA providers must comply with staff supervision and training as defined in licensure Rules and DBHDD policy for Host Home/Life Sharing Sites.

Enrolled CRA agencies provide nursing consultation and oversight through direct employment status or through contracted nursing services. Consultative nursing provides support to direct care staff and managers on an as needed basis and is available to CRA staff to assist with healthcare decisions, training direct care staff, and communication with physicians and other healthcare providers.

Consultative nursing does not replace direct nursing services if required to treat, evaluate or monitor specific conditions. Policies and Procedures for Nursing Services directly reimbursed through the COMP Waiver

Program are outlined in Part III Policies and Procedures for Comprehensive Supports Waivers Program.

The type and number of all other staff associated with the organization (such as contract staff, consultants) are:

2303.1.1.1. Properly trained, licensed and/or credentialed in the professional field as required;

2303.1.1.2. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individuals as required;

2303.1.1.3. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

2303.1.2. Direct Care Staff

Duties of the Direct Care Staff include, but are not limited to:

2303.1.2.1. Providing individual-specific assistance and training in activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, grooming, other personal hygiene, feeding, toileting, transferring, and other similar tasks;

2303.1.2.2. Accompanying individuals and facilitating participation in visits for medical care, therapies, personal shopping, recreation and other community activities;

2303.1.2.3. Training or assistance in household care, such as meal preparation, clothes laundering, bed-making, housecleaning, shopping, simple home repair, yard care, and other similar tasks;

2303.1.2.4. Assisting with therapeutic exercises, supervising self-administration of medication and performing health maintenance activities.

2303.1.2.5. Implementing positive behavioral support plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors.

2303.1.3. Other Requirements

In 24 hour or residential care settings, at least one staff trained in Basic

Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) and first aid is on duty at all times on each shift

2303.2. Community Residential Alternative Facility Capacity Limit:

2303.2.1. Community Residential Alternative Services can only occur in a facility that serves no more than four (4) individuals at a time.

2303.2.2. Exceptions to the facility capacity are considered by DBHDD for short stays in circumstances with no other available options. In such circumstances, the DBHDD Field Office evaluates the setting for factors that might influence the safety of the new resident or other residents in the home, continues to seek other options, and works with support coordination staff through frequent monitoring of all residents in the home until the occupancy is reduced. In no circumstance can the excess capacity exceed one year.

2303.3. Host Home/Life Sharing Arrangement Requirements:

2303.3.1. Providers (i.e., the individual/family providing the individual the host home/life sharing arrangement) rendering Community Residential Alternative Services must comply with the DDBHDD Operational Standards for Host Home/Life Sharing. found at DBHDD Policy "Process for Enrolling, Matching, and Monitoring Host Home/Life-Sharing Sites for DBHDD Developmental Disability Community Service Providers, 02-704."

2303.3.2. Community Residential Alternative Services can only occur in a host home/life sharing arrangement that serves no more than two adult individuals.

2303.3.3. Host home/life sharing for an individual under the age of 18 years can only occur in an approved foster home operating under a licensed Child Placing Agency. These foster homes can only serve a maximum of two (2) individuals under the age of 18 years at a time and can only serve individuals receiving services through the COMP Waiver.

2303.3.4. Only one provider agency can subcontract with a specific host home/life sharing site.

2303.3.5. Administrative Costs and Payment to Host Home Provider. The following are requirements for administrative costs of the CRA provider agency and the agency's payment to the host home individual/family (i.e., the individual/family providing the individual the individual the host home/life sharing arrangement):

*The minimum share of the CRA rate that agencies must be pass-through to the home providers is 60 percent.

2303.3.6. Host home individual/family may not manage the day-to-day operations of another residential location.

2303.3.7. Termination of Contract between the Host Home/life Sharing Site and CRA Provider Agency: Refer to DBHDD policy 02-704 Process for Enrolling, Matching, and Monitoring Host Home/Life-Sharing Sites for DBHDD Developmental Disability Community Service Providers.

2303.3.8. Staffing allocations consistent with Rate Categories:

Levels – 4-person residence	Allocated Staff Hours Per Week
Category 1	45.3 per person
Category 2	55.3 per person
Category 3	66.5 per person
Category 4	90.5 per person
Levels – 3-person residence	Allocated Staff Hours Per Week
Category 1	53.7 per person
Category 2	60.3 per person
Category 3	73.7 per person
Category 4	102.0 per person

2303.3.9. Staffing Levels:

The staff allocation table above describes the average staffing level determined to be necessary to support waiver individuals in each category. Staffing levels are based on average needs within each category and are not required to be delivered on a weekly basis. Staffing hours may fluctuate to accommodate greater or less need by the individual but should be used as a general guide to determine overall household staffing requirement. Any request for additional staffing will be based on the weekly hours outlined above as the baseline minimum requirement prior to consideration for additional staffing.

2303.3.10. Floating Hours

"Floating" FTE hours are intended to accommodate members who participate in day programs less frequently than assumed, require more one-to-one support, etc. The residential rate categories include 40 "floating hours" per week per household.

2303.3.11. Host Home Expectations

It is expected that Host home providers supporting members with the most extensive needs (Category 2) will be able to demonstrate specific training, experience, and/or expertise. Further, CRA Providers must be

able to demonstrate a greater level of support to homes providing services to waiver individuals whose needs fall within the scope of Category 2 homes.

2303.3.12. Relocation of Individual:

An individual must not be relocated without documented prior approval from the DBHDD Field office, a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the move except in documented and regionally approved emergencies, and with subsequent adjustments to the ISP and Prior authorization (PA) prior to relocation except with confirmed regional approval. The relocation of an individual after a disaster damages or destroys a CRA site must be according to the disaster plan for that CRA site. The disaster plan for that site must be available for review by DBHDD and DCH.

2303.3.12.1. Individual Site Enrollment: Each individual Community Residential Alternative site must be individually enrolled.

2303.3.13. Actions Due to Critical Health and Safety Risks: If a CRA service site is determined by DBHDD to have critical health and safety risk, DBHDD may take immediate action to remove the individual(s). (Rev 04/2023)

2303.3.14. Requirements for Employees Residing at Employer's CRA Site: The provider agency must abide by the Fair Labor Standards Act requirements for sleep time when employees reside at the employer's CRA site.

2303.3.15. Requirements to Accompany Individuals to Emergency Rooms or Hospitals: CRA provider agency staff must accompany individuals who are transported to an emergency room or hospital.

2304. Special Eligibility Conditions

2304.1. CRA services are provided to individuals who require 24-hour support.

2304.2. The need for CRA services is determined through assessment and described in the Intake and Evaluation Team approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

2304.3. Individuals who receive CRA services in a group setting live in small group settings which offer individualized support and training in all aspects of daily life including but not limited to activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, socialization, leisure activities and events, spiritual activities and events, and work-related activities as desired.

2304.4. Supports are designed commensurate with each waiver individual's level of need as determined by the Health Risk Screening Tool and the Supports Intensity Scale along with other specialized assessments or evaluations. Categories of need are determined using the level 1 – 4 with Category 1 waiver individuals requiring comparatively mild support needs and Category 4 having much more complex needs, particularly in the areas of exceptional medical and/or behavioral needs. Detailed description of the assessed levels and correlation to need categories can be reviewed at: https://www.healthmanagement.com/burns-reports/georgia-waiver-rates/.

2305. Prior Approval

Community Residential Alternative Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office at least annually in conjunction with reevaluation of need, development of the Individual Service Plan and with any ISP version changes.

2306. Covered Services

Reimbursable Community Residential Alternative Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

2306.1. Assistance with, and/or training in, activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, grooming, other personal hygiene, feeding, toileting, transferring and other similar tasks.

2306.2. Accompanying individuals and facilitating their participation in visits for medical care, therapies, personal shopping, recreation and other community activities. This category includes staff to serve as interpreters and communicators and transportation costs to provide the service.

2306.3. Training or assistance in household care, such as meal preparation, clothes laundering, bed-making, housecleaning, shopping, simple home repair, yard care and other similar tasks.

2306.4. Assisting with therapeutic exercises, supervising self-administration of medication, basic first aid, arranging and transporting individuals to medical appointments, documenting an individual's food and/or liquid intake or output, reminding individuals to take medication, and performing other medically related services including health maintenance activities.

2306.5. Training and support in the areas of social, emotional, physical and special intellectual development. This category includes mobility training, life skills training, self-awareness, and positive behavior support to reduce inappropriate or maladaptive behaviors.

2306.6. Transportation is included in the cost of Community Residential Arrangement services and is thus required to and from waiver and other services specified in the Individual Service Plan. Georgia's Non-Emergency Transportation System may be used for medical appointment transportation with proper supervision and assistance by the CRA

provider.

2306.7. Implementation of behavioral support plans to reduce inappropriate behavior and to acquire alternative skills and behaviors.

2307. Non-Covered Services

2307.1. CRA services delivered in the individual's own or family home or in any residence in which Community Living Support services are provided to an individual including any family-owned licensed personal care home, licensed community living arrangement, or host home/life sharing arrangement.

2307.2. Services in a facility/home that does not meet licensed capacity approved by Georgia Healthcare Facilities Regulation

2307.3. Reimbursement over 344 days/year based on the waiver individual's annual ISP dates, except that the annual limit will reset if an individual changes provider agencies during their plan year.

2307.4. Any absence from the home that requires an overnight stay including hospitalization, overnight camp, family visits or vacations. The only exception is for the individual living in a host home who accompanies a host family on vacation as long as the vacation does not exceed 30 days in the ISP year and is not outside of the United States or its territories.

2307.5. An extended overnight visit with family or friends that exceeds 12 hours in a 24-hour period.

2307.6. Medically related services that are not allowable by State law, rules, and regulations unless fully compliance with Proxy Caregiving Rules.

2307.7. Restrictive behavioral interventions, including chemical or mechanical restraints and seclusion, prohibited by state law or regulations.

2307.8. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 900.

Payment is not made for the cost of room and board, including the cost of building maintenance, upkeep and improvement.

Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services, Vehicle Adaptation Services and Transportation Services cannot be authorized when an individual is authorized Community Residential Alternative Services (Rev 10/2021)

2307.9. Individuals receiving Community Residential Alternative services cannot receive Community Living Support Services unless provided as an alternative in lieu of CRA services during family visits or other overnight excursions outside the residential setting. Exception is also allowed for

individuals who are in the process of transitioning from Community Living Support Services to Community Residential Alternative Services due to such circumstances as the aging of the individual's caregivers, and/or to allow the individual to remain in his or her family home for as long as possible. Exceptions to the authorization of a combination of Community Residential Alternative Services and Community Living Services must reflect an assessed need and be described in the waiver individual's ISP. The delivery of Community Living Support Services and Community Residential Alternative Services on the same day is not allowed.

2307.9.1. Non-covered health maintenance activities as defined in the Rules and Regulations for Proxy Caregivers Used in Licensed Healthcare Facilities, Chapter 111-8-100.

2307.9.2. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

2308. Documentation

Documentation of CRA services must include the following elements in the record of each individual:

2308.1. Daily logs with beginning and ending time of day of all staff and contractors delivering services in the home to include:

2308.1.1. Shift or PRN direct support staff

2308.1.2. Supervisors or residential managers

2308.1.3. Agency employed or contracted nurse consultants

2308.1.4. Any approved Additional Staff

2308.1.5. Professional staff such as therapists, nurses, home health care professionals, behavioral support consultants or service providers

2308.2. Consultation or other activity provided by the agency's nurse in response to request or ad hoc.

2308.3. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;

2308.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

2308.5. Supervisory/management note documenting supervision, training and administrative support of the direct support personnel;

2308.6. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

2308.7. Coordination and/or transportation to other waiver services or community-based services, leisure activities, social events or other activities supporting community inclusion.

2308.8. Any overnight absences from the home including reason for absence.

2309. Basis for Reimbursement

Reimbursement rates for CRA services are found in Appendix A. (Rev 07/2024)

2310. Participant-Direction Options

2310.1. Community Residential Alternative Services cannot be participant-directed. (Rev 10/2021)

2310.2. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 2400: Specific Program Requirements for Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services Scope of Services

2401. General

Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services include adaptations and technical assistance to individually or family-owned private residences which are designed to enable individuals to interact more independently with their environment thus enhancing their quality of life and reducing their dependence on physical support from others. These services include physical adaptations to the individual's or family's home which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the individual, or enable the individual to function with greater independence in the home and without which, the individual would require institutionalization. Environmental Accessibility Adaptations consist of the installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, or installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems which are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies necessary for the welfare of the individual and are of direct medical or remedial benefit to the individual.

Any item billed under Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services must not be available under the State Medicaid Plan. These services must also be documented to be the payer of last resource. The COMP does not cover items that have been denied through the DME and other programs for lack of medical necessity.

2402. Special Requirements of Participation

2402.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, individual providers of Environmental Accessibility Adaptations must meet the following requirements:

2402.1.1. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services:

2402.1.1.1. The efforts of the individual's Support Coordinator to substantiate payer of last resource, including available community, State Plan, or other resources.

2402.1.1.2. Verification of Environmental Accessibility Adaptation service delivery, including date, location, and specific environmental accessibility adaptations provided.

2402.1.1.3. Associated administration costs for Environmental Accessibility Adaptation

service delivery that delineates line-item sources of costs; billing of associated administration costs cannot exceed eight to ten (8 to 10) percent of any billing for Environmental Accessibility Adaptation services.

2402.1.2. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200

2402.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

2402.2.1. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services:

2402.2.1.1. The efforts of the individual's Support Coordinator to substantiate payer of last resource, including available community, State Plan, or other resources.

2402.2.1.2. Verification of Environmental Accessibility Adaptation service delivery, including date, location, and specific environmental accessibility adaptations provided.

2402.2.1.3. Associated administration costs for Environmental Accessibility Adaptation service delivery that delineates line-item sources of costs; billing of associated administration costs cannot exceed eight to ten (8 to 10) percent of any billing for Environmental Accessibility Adaptation services.

2402.2.2. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 1200.

2402.2.3. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract Standards, DBHDD Core Requirements for All Providers and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 603).

2403. Licensure

Environmental Accessibility Adaptations are made by building, plumbing or electrical contractors with applicable Georgia license (O.C.G.A. § 43-14-8 or 43-41-6) or individual builders, plumbers or electricians with applicable Georgia business license as required by the local, city or county government in which the services are provided.

2404. Special Eligibility Conditions

2404.1. The need for Environmental Accessibility Adaptation services must be related to the individual disability and specified in the Intake and Evaluation Team approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

2404.2. Medical Necessity for Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services must be documented through an order by the Georgia Licensed physician.

2405. Prior Approval

2405.1. Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services must relate to specific individual goal(s) and must be required to meet the needs of the individual.

2405.2. Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office at least annually in conjunction with the ISP development and any ISP version changes.

2406. Covered Services

Reimbursable Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

2406.1. Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services consist of physical adaptations to the individual's or family's home in which the individual resides, and which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the individual, or which enable the individual to function with greater independence in the home and without which, the individual would require institutionalization.

2406.2. Environmental Accessibility Adaptations consist of the installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, or installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems which are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies

necessary for the welfare of the individual and are of direct medical or remedial benefit to the individual.

2407. Non-Covered Services

2407.1. Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services will not be approved for modifications made to homes that are licensed by the State as Personal Care Homes or Community Living Arrangements.

2407.2. Adaptations that add to the total square footage of the home are excluded from this benefit except when necessary to complete an adaptation (e.g., in order to improve entrance/egress to a residence or to configure a bathroom to accommodate a wheelchair).

2407.3. Adaptations that are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the individual, such as carpeting, roof repair, central air conditioning, etc.

2407.4. Adaptations that are made to leased property.

2407.5. Comfort, convenience, or recreational adaptations.

2407.6. Installations or adaptations for alarm systems, chairlifts, elevators, burglar bars, security cameras, personal emergency response systems, deadbolt locks, fences, hot tubs, whirlpool tubs, portable pools and spas, lap pools, and indoor ceiling lift systems.

2407.7. Individuals cannot receive Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services if receiving Community Residential Alternative Services.

2407.8. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 900.

2407.9. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

2408. Basis for Reimbursement

2408.1. Reimbursement Rate: (Rev 07/2024)

Reimbursement rate for Environmental Accessibility Adaptation is the lower of three price quotes or the lifetime maximum. The reimbursement rates for all specialized services are found in Appendix A.

2409. Participant-Direction Options

2409.1. Individuals may choose the self-direction option with Environmental Accessibility Adaptation.

2409.2. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 2500: Specific Program Requirements for Financial Support Services Scope of Services

2501. General

Financial Support Services (FSS) are designed to perform fiscal and related finance functions for the individual or representative who elects the participant-direction option for service delivery and supports. FSS assure that the funds to provide services and supports, outlined in the Individual Service Plan (ISP) and to be implemented through a self-directed approach, are managed and distributed as intended.

Financial Support Services are provided by a Fiscal Intermediary Agency (FIA) established as a legally recognized entity in the United States, qualified and registered to do business in the state of Georgia and approved as a Medicaid provider by the Department of Community Health (DCH.).

Financial Support Services are mandatory and integral to participant-direction (budget authority).

2502. Special Requirements of Participation

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Financial Support Services providers must meet the following:

2502.1. Provider Qualifications:

2502.1.1. Be a Fiscal Intermediary Agency;

2502.1.2. Be approved by the IRS under procedure 70-6 and meet requirements and functions as established by IRS code, Section 3504;

2502.1.3. Hold and execute Medicaid provider agreements and function as an Organized Health Care Delivery System (OHCDS) or as authorized under a written agreement with the Department of Community Health;

2502.1.4. Understand the laws and rules that regulate the expenditure of public resources;

2502.1.5. Have at least two years of basic accounting and payroll experience;

2502.1.6. Have a surety bond issued by a company authorized to do business in the State of Georgia in an amount equal to or greater than the monetary value of the individual's business accounts managed but not less than $250,000;

2502.1.7. Be approved by the IRS (under IRS Revenue Procedure 70-6) and meet requirements and functions as established by the IRS code, section 3504;

2502.1.8. Not be enrolled to provide any other Medicaid services in the State of Georgia.

2502.2. Service Delivery Requirements:

2502.2.1. Receive and disburse funds for the payment of participant-directed services under an agreement with the Department of Community Health, the State Medicaid agency.

2502.2.2. File claims through the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) for participant-directed goods and services.

2502.2.3. Utilize accounting systems that operate effectively on a large scale and have the capacity to track individual budgets;

2502.2.4. Adhere to the timelines for payment that meet the individual's needs within Department of Labor standards;

2502.2.5. Develop, implement and maintain an effective payroll system that adheres to all related tax obligations for both payment and reporting;

2502.2.6. Maintain separate, individual accounts for each individual's funds to be used for participant-directed waiver services;

2502.2.7. Establish procedures for conducting and paying for up to five (5) local and national criminal background checks, and for completing age verification on service support workers;

2502.2.8. Establish procedures for generating service management, and statistical information and reports during each payroll cycle;

2502.2.9. Develop materials for startup training and technical assistance to individuals, their representatives, and others as required to include, but not limited to, timesheets and payroll forms.

2502.2.10. Establish procedures for processing and maintaining all unemployment records;

2502.2.11. Provide an electronic process for reporting and tracking timesheets and expense reports;

2502.2.12. Establish procedures to execute and hold the Medicaid provider agreements as authorized under a written agreement with the Department of Community Health, the State Medicaid Agency.

2502.2.13. Monitor expenditures of individual budgets on a regular basis to ensure that payments to not exceed the total units amount and the total dollar amount allocated for each individual in the participant's approved budget;

2502.2.14. Provide all necessary employment and budget forms to Participants (employers) to include but not limited to timesheets, W-2s and a financial orientation package;

2502.2.15. Provide financial instruction and technical assistance to Participants(employers);

2503. Licensure

Provider agencies that render Financial Support Services must hold the applicable business license as required by the local, city, or county government in which the services are provided.

2504. Special Eligibility Conditions

2504.1. Only individuals who opt for participant-direction of services are eligible to receive Financial Support Services.

2504.2. The need for Financial Support Services must be reflected in the Individual Service Plan approved by the Intake and Evaluation Team.

2504.3. Financial Support Services are not available to individuals or representatives who choose the Co-Employer model for self-directed services and supports.

2505. Prior Approval

Financial Support Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and revisions.

2506. Covered Services

Based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP, the Financial Support Services Provider:

2506.1. Conducts and pays for criminal background checks (local and national) and completes age verification on service support workers.

2506.2. Receives and disburses funds for payment of participant-directed services, in accordance with all related tax obligations, unemployment records, and worker compensation on earned income.

2506.3. Generates service management, statistical information, and reports during each payroll cycle.

2506.4. Provides startup training and technical assistance to individuals, their

representatives, and others as required.

2506.5. Process and maintain all unemployment records.

2507. Non-Covered Services

2507.1. Supplies and maintenance for fax machine.

2507.2. The FSS provider can only provide Financial Support Services and must not be enrolled to provide any other Medicaid services in Georgia.

2507.3. Financial Support Services are not available to individuals or representatives who choose the Co-Employer model for self-directed services and supports.

2507.4. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

2508. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rate for Financial Support Services is found in Appendix A.

2509. Participant-Direction Options

2509.1. Financial Support Services is a mandatory and non-negotiable for individuals who choose the participant-directed option for service delivery.

2509.2. When the individual is the employer of record, the FSS provider is the Internal Revenue Service approved Fiscal Employer Agent (FEA).

2509.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 2600: Specific Program Requirements for Individual Directed Goods and Services Scope of Services

2601. General

Individual Directed Goods and Services are goods and services not otherwise provided through the COMP or the Medicaid State Plan but are identified by the waiver individual/representative who opts for participant-direction and the Support Coordinator or interdisciplinary team. These services are available only for individuals who choose the participant-direction option for service delivery. Individual Directed Goods and Services must be clearly linked to an assessed need of the individual due to his or her disability and be documented in the individual's Individual Service Plan.

Individual Directed Goods and Services are purchased from the participant-directed budget and cover services that include improving and maintaining the individual's opportunities for full membership in the community. Goods and services purchased under this coverage may not circumvent other restrictions on COMP services, including the prohibition against claiming for the costs of room and board. Individual Directed Goods and Services must be authorized by the operating agency prior to service delivery.

The Individual Directed Goods and Services must:

2601.1. Decrease the need for other Medicaid services; AND

2601.2. Not be available through another source, including the individual not having the funds to purchase the item or service; AND

2601.3. Promote inclusion in the community; OR

2601.4. Increase the individual's safety in the home environment;

The individual/representative must submit a request to the Support Coordinator for the goods or service to be purchased that includes the supplier/vendor's name and identifying information and the cost of the service/goods. A paid invoice or receipt that provides clear evidence of the purchase must be on file in the individual's records to support all goods and services purchased. Authorization for these services requires Support Coordinator documentation that specifies how the Individual Directed Goods and Services meet the above-specified criteria for these services. Individuals receiving flexible support coordination are required to follow these same procedures.

2602. Special Requirements of Participation

2602.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Individual Directed Goods and Services providers must meet the following requirements:

2602.1.1. Individual Providers of Individual Directed Goods and

Services must:

2602.1.1.1. Must be 18 years or older;

2602.1.1.2. Have a minimum of a high school diploma or GED Equivalent;

2602.1.1.3. Must have two years of professional work experience in the area of purchasing or related experience; OR

2602.1.1.4. Have an applicable business license for goods provided.

2602.1.1.4.1. Authorization Documentation: The vendor for Individual Directed Goods and Services assures receipt of a copy of the required Support Coordinator documentation for authorization of these services prior to service provision.

2602.1.1.4.2. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 1200.

2602.1.1.4.3. Documentation of Services and Goods Purchased: A paid invoice or receipt that provides clear evidence of the purchase must be on file in the individual's records to support all goods and services purchased.

2603. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and

Procedures for the COMP Program, Individual Directed Goods and Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

2603.1. Agency Providers of Individual Directed Goods and Services must:

2603.1.1. Have employees providing services that meet the above requirements for individual providers; OR

2603.1.2. Have an applicable business license for goods provided.

2603.2. Authorization Documentation: The agency vendor for Individual Directed Goods and Services assures receipt of a copy of the required Support Coordinator documentation for authorization of these services prior to service provision.

2603.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and Other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.

2603.4. Documentation of Services and Goods Purchased: A paid invoice or receipt that provides clear evidence of the purchase must be on file in the individual's records to support all goods and services purchased.

2604. Licensure

Individual Directed Goods and Services are provided by vendors with the applicable Georgia business license as required by the local, city or county government in which the services are provided.

2605. Special Eligibility Conditions

Individual Directed Goods and Services are only for individual who opt for participant-direction.

The specific goods and services provided under Individual Directed Goods and Services must be clearly linked to an assessed need of the individual due to his or her disability and be documented in the individual's Intake and Evaluation approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

The individual/representative must submit a request to the Support Coordinator for the goods or service to be purchased that will include the supplier/vendor's name and identifying information and the cost of the service/goods.

2606. Prior Approval

Authorization for these services requires Participant-Directed Representative documentation that specifies how the Individual Directed Goods and Services meet the requirements for purchase of this coverage specified below:

The goods or services are not covered through the COMP Program or Medicaid State Plan; AND

The individual does not have the funds to purchase the item or service, or the item or service is not available through another source; AND

The item or service would decrease the need for other Medicaid services; AND

Promote inclusion in the community; OR

Increase the individual's safety in the home environment.

The Participant-Directed Representative provides a copy of the above documentation to the vendor prior to service provision.

The above authorization procedures for the Participant-Directed Representative must be followed for individuals receiving flexible support coordination.

Individual Directed Goods and Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office at least annually in conjunction with the ISP development and any ISP version changes.

2607. Covered Services

Reimbursable Individual Directed Goods and Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

2607.1. Goods that specifically relate to the individual's needs due to his or her disability and are not otherwise provided through the COMP or the Medicaid State Plan.

2607.2. Services that specifically relate to the individual's needs due to his or her disability and are not otherwise provided through the COMP or the Medicaid State Plan.

2608. Non-Covered Services

2608.1. Services or goods not related to the needs of the individual due to his or her disability.

2608.2. Experimental or prohibited treatments.

2608.3. Costs for room and board and other restrictions on COMP services.

2608.4. Services otherwise provided through the COMP or the Medicaid State Plan, including additional units or costs beyond the maximum allowable for any COMP or Medicaid State Plan service.

2608.5. Items denied through the Durable Medical Equipment and other Medicaid State Plan programs due to the lack of medical necessity.

2608.6. Educational services otherwise available through a program funded under 20 USC Chapter 3, section 1400 of the Individuals Education Act (IDEA),

including private school tuition, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in schools, school supplies, tutors, and home-schooling activities and supplies.

2608.7. Services that are available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

2608.8. Incentive payments, subsidies, or unrelated vocational training expenses.

2608.9. Supervisory activities rendered as a normal part of the business setting.

2608.10. Medically related services that are not allowable by State law, rules, and regulations.

2608.11. Admission fees, Memberships, Subscriptions, Donations, or related items.

2608.12. Training paid caregivers.

2608.13. Services in a hospital.

2608.14. Any item listed as non-covered for the COMP Specialized Medical Supplies, Specialized Medical Equipment, Vehicle Adaptations, and Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services.

2608.14.1. Services reimbursable by any other source.

2608.14.2. Costs of travel, meals and overnight lodging for families and natural support network members to attend a training event or conference.

2608.14.3. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 900.

2609. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rate is the lower of three price quotes or the annual maximum. The reimbursement rate for Individual Directed Goods and Services is found in Appendix A.

2610. Participant-Direction Options

2610.1. Individual Directed Goods and Services are only for individuals who opt for the self-direction option.

2610.2. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider of Individual Directed Goods and Services.

For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 2700: Specific Program Requirements for Interpreter Services Scope of Services

2701. General

Interpreter Services provide sign language interpretation support services that are not otherwise reimbursed through Medicaid State Plan Services. Interpreter services is intended to facilitate communication to aid in the development of ISPs through informed assessment and full participation in planning by the individual and treatment team members. Interpreter services are also intended to provide training to direct support staff in various community settings including but not limited to CLA, CLS and Community Access. Sign Language Interpreting Services are provided by a certified interpreter who is certified with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). Interpreter Services include the development of communication guidelines consistent with the individual's communication assessment, observation to gather information about the individual's communication skills and abilities, training and education of the individual, family, and staff in compliance with communication assessment. Any recommendations made by the certified interpreter that alter the original communication assessment must be supported by the communication specialist before implementation.

2702. Special Requirements of Participation

2702.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II Chapter 6000 Policies and Procedures for the NOW/COMP program, Sign Language Interpreter Services providers must meet the following requirements:

2702.1.1. Service Provision: Interpreter Services are provided by a certified sign language interpreter in accordance with Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).

2702.1.2. Documentation Requirement: Providers must provide a documentation record of the services provided to each individual:

2702.1.2.1. Specific services provided interpreting, and translation/training or other communication assistance provided;

2702.1.2.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided:

2702.1.2.3. Location where the service was delivered;

2702.1.2.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title of the person providing the service and his or her signature.

2702.1.2.5. Progress towards the goal(s)established in

the individual's communication assessment report (CAR).

2702.1.2.6. Sign Language Interpreter Providers must maintain documentation for the identified need of communication supports. Copies of documentation or educational materials in support of the communication needs of the individual must be part of the documentation of a residential or other setting as training tools.

2702.1.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW/COMP, Chapter 1200.

2702.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP and NOW Program, Interpreter Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

Service Interpreter Services are provided by a RID certified interpreter and supported by the individual's communication assessment report.
Types of Agencies: Agencies that provide Sign Language interpreter Services are:
Sign Language Interpreting Agencies

Staffing Qualifications and Responsibilities:

Sign Language Interpreting Agencies rendering Sign Language Interpreter Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

2702.2.1. Employees or Contractors must hold current certification with Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)

2702.2.2. An Agency Director. Additional information regarding director qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701.

Duties of the Agency Director include, but are not limited to:

Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

Manages the use of agency funds;

Ensures the development and updating of required policies of the agency;

Manages the employment of staff and professional contracts for the agency;

Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

2702.2.3. Provider agencies must have available a sufficient number of employees or professionals under contract that are certified sign language interpreters to provide Sign Language Interpreter Services.

2702.2.3.1. Agency Policies and Procedures: Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of Sign Language Interpreter Services, which follow the Standards for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities refer to Part II Chapters 600-1200 Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW General Manual

2702.2.3.2. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW).

2703. Licensure

2703.1. Interpreter Services are provided by a "qualified interpreter" or "intermediary interpreter" in accordance with the applicable Georgia code O.C.G.A. § 24-6-651

2704. Special Eligibility Conditions

In addition to the communication assessment, an individual must have one of the following conditions:

2704.1. A medical condition or diagnosis:

2704.1.1. For which a communication assessment has been required; or

2704.1.2. which has resulted in the patient's inability to communicate in spoken language to others.

2704.2. The individual is considered Deaf or has a hearing loss so seriously impaired as to prohibit the person from understanding oral communications when spoken in a normal conversational tone.

2704.3. The individual's communication preference is to communicate in sign language.

2704.4. All services must be reflected on the communication assessment report.

Documentation Requirement: Providers must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Interpreter Services:

2704.5. Specific interpreting, training or communication assistance provided;

2704.6. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

2704.7. Location where the service was delivered; and

2704.8. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

2704.9. Progress towards the individual's communication needs as documented in the individual's ISP.

2704.10. Sign Language Interpreter Providers must maintain documentation for the identified need of therapies, frequency and duration of interpreting, interventions to be provided, and goal(s)addressing communication needs.

2705. Prior Approval

Interpreter Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the DBHDD in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes. The need for Sign Language Interpreter Services must be an identifiable assessed need in the CAR and in the ISP directly related to the disability.

2706. Covered Service

Reimbursable Interpreter Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

2706.1. Evaluation and assessment

2706.2. Individual Service Planning

2706.3. Individual Family/Staff education

2707. Non-Covered Services

Sign Language Interpreter Services are not provided for other services/agencies that are not

considered to be DBHDD services.

2708. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rates for Sign Language Interpreter Services are found in Appendix A.

2709. Participant-Direction Options

Individuals cannot choose the self-direction option with Sign Language Interpreter Services.
An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider.
For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 1200.

2710. Telehealth Options (Rev 10/2022)

All components of Interpreter Services may be provided via a telehealth modality. Service provision a via telehealth modality will be considered on an individual basis taking into consideration the most effective communication mode and preferences of the individual. Individuals who are Deaf have various levels of language use, comprehension, abstract thinking ability, and temporal relation. Each individual's level of language use and preferences are considered when the individual determines telehealth is the most effective option for that individual during the Individual Service Plan (ISP) planning process. The DBHDD Office of Deaf Services is available for assistance with service planning and access to COMP Interpreter Services and can be contacted at deafservices@dbhdd.ga.gov.

For other COMP services being rendered via a telehealth delivery model, the interpreter may also join the COMP service provider remotely at the preference of the individual and the individual's designated representative as applicable.

All Interpreting services are required to adhere to HIPAA and state privacy law. Providers are required to use HIPAA compliant platforms while offering telehealth services. In addition to being HIPAA compliant, all certified interpreters are also required to adhere to the Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf's (RID) Code of Professional Conduct (CPC).

Interpreter telehealth services shall be rendered in a quiet, private environment with attendance limited to those participating in the event.

For more information regarding telehealth guidance, please refer to the telehealth guidance, located at www.mmis.georgia.gov, Click Provider Information-Provider Manuals.

Chapter 2800: THIS CHAPTER- Intentionally Left Blank

Chapter 2900: Specific Program Requirements for Nursing Services Scope of Services

2901. General

This policy is intended to outline the parameters of the practice of licensed nursing within the waiver. Nursing Services is the provision of nursing care for the assessment and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems as identified through the nursing process. Nursing Services are indicated when the individual has a clinical diagnosis that requires ongoing complex assessment and intervention for the purpose of health restoration or prevention of further deterioration of the health of the individual.

Nursing Services provide intermittent skilled services to an individual for the purpose of restoring and maintaining the individual's maximal level of function and health. As described in the Georgia Nurse Practice Act, nursing services include the assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, teaching and supervision of an individual either solely by a registered nurse or by a registered nurse in collaboration with other licensed or unlicensed personnel. The standards of nursing practice are based on the premise that the registered nurse is responsible for and accountable to the individual for the quality of nursing care rendered.

Nursing Services are provided by a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) with a valid license in the state of Georgia or Nurse Licensure Compact. LPNs are required to provide services under the supervision of the RN.

Nursing services are approved when there is the requirement to meet the healthcare needs of the individual and may be delivered in an individual's place of residence, family home, relative's home, residential services, other community settings where no duplicative services are available.

2901.1 The following tasks, which require the training and skill level of a Registered Nurse, may be delegated to an LPN with a physician or physician extender order and documentation of training.

These tasks may never be delegated to unlicensed staff.

2901.1.1. Ventilator care

2901.1.2. Tracheostomy care

2901.1.3. Deep/endo-tracheal suctioning

2901.1.4. Wound Vac care

2901.1.5. Complex wound care

2901.1.6. IV medication administration

2901.1.7. Central line maintenance

2901.1.8. Irrigation of wound, orifices

2901.1.9. Chest Physical therapy (CPT) if nursing ordered to perform

2901.1.10. Insertion of supra pubic catheter/tube

2901.1.11. Medication calculation

2901.1.12. Other complex nursing designated task(s) with a physician or extender order

2901.2. Licensed Practical Nurse may not provide the following services:

2901.2.1. The initial evaluation or complex assessment of a waiver individual

2901.2.2. Development and training of the healthcare plan

2901.2.3. Supervisory responsibilities

2901.3. For more information regarding tasks that may be delegated to unlicensed staff, refer to Rules and Regulations for Proxy Caregivers Used in Licensed Healthcare Facilities, Rule 111-8-100.

2901.4 Clinical nursing, oversight services, and care is provided according to laws and standards of practice found in the:

2901.3.1. Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 43-26-3, ET. seq.

2901.3.2. Georgia Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations, Chapter 410

2901.3.3. American Nurses Association [ANA] Professional Standards

2901.3.4. Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association [DDNA] Aspirational Standards of Developmental Disabilities Nursing Practice

2901.4. Each provider, individual or agency, must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operation of Nursing Services, which follow the standards for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).

2901.5. All waiver enrolled providers, individual or agency, must comply with DBHDD provider manuals, standards, and policies.

2902. Special Requirements of Participation

2902.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/Peach Care for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP Program, Nursing Services individual providers must meet the following requirements:

2902.1.1. Service Provision:

2902.1.1.1. Registered Nurse (RN) – Nursing Services are provided by a Registered Nurse who has a current license to practice in the State of Georgia.

2902.1.1.2. Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) – Nursing Services are provided by a Licensed Practical Nurse who has a current license to practice in the State of Georgia.

2902.1.2. Nursing Services at Community Access, Prevocational Services, and in Residential Settings

Nursing Services may be provided at facilities or residential settings where no duplicative services are available. The RN and LPN services must be documented and billed separately.

2902.1.3. Subcontracting

Individual providers may not subcontract nursing services.

2902.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/Peach Care for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP Program, Nursing Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

2902.2.1. Service Provision:

2902.2.1.1. Registered Nurse (RN) – Nursing Services are provided by a Registered Nurse who has a current license to practice in the State of Georgia.

2902.2.1.2. Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) – Nursing Services are provided by a Licensed Practical Nurse who has a current license to practice in the State of Georgia.

2902.2.2. Type of Agencies

Provider agencies must maintain adequate and appropriate RN and LPN staffing to render the approved services but may contract with other entities to provide nursing services. Such contracts must be maintained in the provider's office and must reflect the enrolled provider's total administrative responsibility, to include training and determining competency of contracted nurses, professional, supervisory, and billing responsibility. Providers must assure that the persons delivering services meet minimum staff requirements.

2902.2.3. Subcontracting

Provider agencies may subcontract for the provision of services as long as the subcontract contains, at a minimum, the following elements:

2902.2.3.1. Names of all parties entering into contract.

2902.2.3.2. A stipulation requiring subcontractors to perform in accordance with all conditions of participation which pertain to the service purchased under subcontract, requirements specific to nursing services policy and requiring the contractor to assume responsibility if the selected subcontractor fails to do so.

2902.2.3.3. A stipulation requiring contractor agency to maintain responsibility for, and assure the subcontractor's performance of administrative, supervisory, professional and service delivery responsibilities relative meeting all requirements of the program.

2902.2.3.4. A stipulation that the subcontractor will comply with local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations and will adhere to

program policies and procedures as they now exist or may hereafter is amended.

2902.2.3.5. A stipulation that the persons delivering services meet the staff requirements.

2902.2.3.6. A stipulation that the subcontractor will participate as needed in the nursing agency's case conferences to coordinate support or care.

2902.2.4. Nursing Services at Community Access, Prevocational Services, and in Residential Settings

Nursing Services may be provided at facilities or residential settings where no duplicative services are available. The RN and LPN services must be documented and billed separately.

2902.2.5. The provider must maintain the nurses' signed time sheets on file for a period no less than three (3) years.

2903. Documentation Requirements

2903.1. All Nursing Services Providers, both individual and agency, must document at minimum on a continuous basis the following in the record of each individual receiving Nursing Services:

2903.1.1. The specific services (tasks) performed according to the physicians' orders and the healthcare plan.

2903.1.2. Date, beginning and ending time when the service was delivered.

2903.1.3. Location where the service was delivered.

2903.1.4. Progress toward individual's goal(s), desired outcomes in the individual's service plan.

2903.1.5. Attestation of service delivery through signature and legible, printed first and last name, including the license of the person providing service.

2903.1.6. All other items as outlined in Part I Policies and Procedures for Medicaid Peachcare for Kids and Part II Chapters 600-1200 Policies and Procedures for Comprehensive Supports

Waiver Program (COMP) and New Options Waiver Program (NOW) General Manual.

2903.2 Original Nursing Services notes must be maintained either on site and/or in an electronic format in the individual's record.

Individual providers and provider agencies must maintain a copy of Nursing Services notes, healthcare plans, and other documentation of nursing services rendered.

2903.3 The full Clinical Record is maintained by the primary provider in accordance with the DBHDD Provider Manual.

2904. Licensure

2904.1. Individual Nursing Services Providers

2904.1.1. Registered Nurse (RN) - Nursing Services are provided by an Individual Nursing Provider for individual RN licensed nursing provider services in accordance with the applicable Georgia state license or Nurse Licensure Compact as required under the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) § 43-26-7.

2904.1.2. Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) – Nursing Services are provided by an Individual Nursing Provider for individual LPN licensed nursing provider services in accordance with the applicable Georgia state license or Nurse Licensure Compact as required under the Official Code of Georgia Annotated ((O.C.G.A.) § 43-26-32. LPN will need to contract with a waiver provider of RN services under the waivers for supervision of provided nursing services.

2904.2. Provider Agencies

2904.2.1. Private Home Care License with nursing – In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 31-7-300 et seq. must be licensed by the Georgia Department of Community Health, and Health Care Facility Regulations Division. Private Home Care Rules are stated in Chapter 290-5-54.

and/or

2904.2.2. Community Living Arrangement License with nursing –

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 31-7 et seq. and 37-1-22, all nursing services provided under a CLA requires site specific nursing enrollment and must be licensed by the Georgia Department of Community Health, and Health Care Facility Regulations Division. Community Living Arrangement Rules are found in Chapter 290-9-37. Agencies providing nursing services at one site location may do so under the site's Community Living Arrangement license if enrolled to provide nursing services at that location.

2905. Special Eligibility Conditions

2905.1. Nursing Services are available to waiver individuals who meet the following criteria:

2905.1.1. Are age 21 and over; and

2905.1.2. Any specific skilled nursing support needs, and healthcare needs are identified and documented by the DBHDD RN in the Georgia DBHDD State Nursing Assessment

2905.1.3. Written orders for skilled nursing tasks required to treat, mitigate risk, or comply with scheduled care from a licensed physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner

2905.2. The need for Nursing Services must be reflected in the Georgia DBHDD Nursing Assessment completed by the DBHDD RN who provides documented assessment of diagnosis, preventative maintenance needs of the individual, and review of the written orders for skilled nursing tasks.

2905.3. Determination of Approved Hours

2905.3.1. Standardized Methodology

2905.3.1.1. A standardized methodology is used to determine the number of hours that are approved. The standardized methodology allocates time needed for skilled nursing tasks identified in assessments and validated screenings, as confirmed by available medical records documented by a qualified professional who is knowledgeable about the individual's clinical needs.

2905.3.1.2. The standardized methodology tool does not include allocation for unskilled support needs.

2905.3.1.3. Hours are allocated based only on current skilled need, not projected needs.

2905.3.1.4. Hours are allocated based solely on medical necessity, taking into consideration the overall medical condition of the individual, the equipment, and the level of and frequency of care required for the individual, and do not consider social support needs.

2905.3.1.5. Approval of the utilization of a Registered Nurse versus a Licensed Practical Nurse is determined by the inherent complexity of the service, the condition of the individual, and accepted standards of medical and nursing practice. Approval is granted for the lowest level of professional licensure appropriate to serve the medically necessary needs of the individual.

2905.3.2. Special Review Process

The special review process is an in-depth analysis intended to serve as an exception to the standardized methodology in 2905.3.

2905.3.2.1. The special review process is available to waiver recipients r who meet the following criteria:

2905.3.2.2. Have an active authorization for COMP waiver services;

2905.3.2.3. Have an active authorization for CLS services; and

2905.3.2.4. Have a calculated allocation using the standardized methodology (referenced in 2905.3) of 12 or more daily LPN hours.

2905.3.3. During the special review process, the DBHDD RN considers a combination of the following factors in making

a determination if additional skilled nursing hours are required:

2905.3.3.1. The individual’s diagnoses;

2905.3.3.2. The medical interventions detailed by their physician and reported by their family and/or caregivers;

2905.3.3.3. Their overall health status, including their medical baseline, any history of medical complications and recurring issues, and the impact of new illnesses or fluctuating conditions (seasonal allergies, tachycardia, insomnia, etc.) that increase their need for nursing support

2905.3.3.4. Individuals who are determined to need additional skilled nursing hours following the special review process will receive direct communication from DBHDD outlining the DBHDD-calculated nursing hours. This communication will also include a clear pathway to provide a signed determination of medically necessary skilled nursing hours from their primary care physician or qualified extender. Barring a significant deviation from medically reasonable standards, the physician's determination of medically necessary skilled nursing hours will be adopted.

2906. Prior Approval

Nursing Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the provider and require DBHDD Field Office RN evaluation of the waiver individual at least annually in conjunction with reevaluation of need, development of the Individual Service Plan, and with any ISP version changes related to Nursing Services.

2907. Covered Services

Covered nursing services include the following and are based on the assessed need of the individual:

2907.1. Monitoring the individual, collecting and reviewing medical data, and collaborating in the assessment of the individual's health status;

2907.2. Nursing Assessment to determine health status and nursing needs;

2907.3. Clinical Review of the individual's needs;

2907.4. Healthcare plan(s) development and implementation with competency trainings;

2907.5. Medication and/or treatment administration as prescribed in accordance with currently accepted standards of nursing practice;

2907.6. Evaluating the individual's response to intervention and informing the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner of changes in the individual's condition or needs;

2907.7. Communication and collaboration with other health care professionals; and

2907.8. Individual, family and/or direct support staff health education and counseling to promote, attain, and maintain the optimum health levels of individual.

2908. Non-Covered Services

2908.1. In-home services for the treatment of an illness or injury covered in Home Health Services under the Medicaid State Plan, Medicare, private health insurance or other fund sources.

2908.2. Services that have not been ordered/approved by a physician or physician extender licensed to provide such orders.

2908.3. Services provided to individuals receiving concurrent nursing services through home health.

2908.4. Services to individuals under the age of 21.

2908.5. Services provided in a hospital or other institution.

2908.6. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan.

2909. Basis for Reimbursement

See Appendix A for reimbursement.

2910. Participant-Direction Options

2910.1. Nursing Services are not eligible for any participant-direction option.

2910.2. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 3000: Specific Program Requirements for Prevocational Services Scope of Services

3001. General

Prevocational Services prepare an individual for competitive integrated employment. For the purposes of this section, "competitive integrated employment" has the same meaning as defined by the United States Department of Labor. These services are for the individual not expected to be able to join the general work force within one year as documented in the Individual Service Plan. Individuals are paid in accordance with the requirements of Part 525 of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The individual's compensation must be in accordance with the 2025 "Dignity and Pay Act" and O.C.G.A Sections 34-4-4 and 34-6A-4.

Prevocational Services occur in facility-based settings or at community sites outside the facility for small groups of individuals, called mobile crews, who travel from the facility to these community sites. Mobile crews receive Prevocational Services by performing tasks, such as cleaning or landscaping, at community sites other than the individual's home or family home or any residential setting.

The emphasis of Prevocational Services is directed to habilitative rather than explicit employment objectives. These services include teaching individuals' individual concepts necessary to perform effectively in a job in the community. Activities included in these services are directed at teaching concepts such as rule compliance, attendance, task completion, problem solving, endurance, work speed, work accuracy, increased attention span, motor skills, safety, and appropriate social skills.

The intended outcome of these services is to prepare the individual for competitive integrated employment through increased skills. Prevocational Services are individually planned to meet the individual's needs for preparation for competitive integrated employment. These services are provided either facility-based or at community sites other than the individual's home or family home or any other residential setting. If the individual is not interested in competitive integrated employment, their choice must be documented in the ISP.

Prevocational Services are provided to groups of individuals at a facility or to small groups of individuals who travel to sites outside the facility, referred to as mobile crews. The staff to individual ratio for facility-based Prevocational Services cannot exceed one (1) to ten (10). The staff to individual ratio for Mobile Crew Prevocational Services cannot exceed one (1) to six (6). Prevocational Services Providers offer (or arrange when needed) any of the standard services listed in section 2505 – Covered Services that are needed by the individuals served and specified in the individuals' Individual Service Plans.

3002. Special Requirements of Participation

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Prevocational Services providers must meet the following requirements:

3002.1. Staffing Qualifications and Responsibilities

Provider agencies rendering Prevocational Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

3002.1.1. A designated agency. Additional information regarding director qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701.

3002.1.2. Duties of the Agency Director include, but are not limited to:

3002.1.2.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

3002.1.2.2. Manages the use of agency funds;

3002.1.2.3. Ensures the development and updating of required policies of the agency;

3002.1.2.4. Manages the employment of staff and professional contracts for the agency;

3002.1.2.5. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

3002.1.3. At least one agency employee or professional under contract with the agency must:

3002.1.3.1. Be a Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) (for definition, Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf

3002.1.3.2. Have responsibility for overseeing the delivery of Prevocational Services to individuals.

3002.1.4. The same individual may serve as both the agency director and the Developmental Disability Professional;

3002.1.5. A minimum of one (1) direct care staff member for every ten (10) individuals served in facility-based Prevocational Services and a minimum of one (1) direct care staff members for every six (6) individuals served in Prevocational Services provided as mobile crews;

3002.1.6. Direct Care Staff must:

3002.1.6.1. Be 18 years or older;

3002.1.6.2. Have a high school diploma or equivalent (General Educational Development or GED) or have a minimum score of 75 on the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (STOFHLA) or Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (TOFHLA); (Rev 04/2022 Rev 10/2022)

3002.1.6.3. Meet transportation requirements in COMP Part II chapter 900, Section 905 if transporting individuals.

3002.1.6.4. Be provided with a basic orientation prior to direct contact with individuals and show competence in:

3002.1.6.4.1. The purpose and scope of Prevocational Services, including related policies and procedures;

3002.1.6.4.2. Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken;

3002.1.6.4.3. Rights and responsibilities of individuals;

3002.1.6.4.4. Requirements for recognizing and reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any individual:

3002.1.6.4.4.1. To the DBHDD;

3002.1.6.4.4.2. Within the organizatio n;

3002.1.6.4.4.3. To appropriate regulatory or licensing agencies; and

3002.1.6.4.4.4. To law enforcement agencies

3002.1.7. Duties of the Direct Care Staff include, but are not limited to:

3002.1.7.1. Provides direct assistance in teaching such concepts as rule compliance, attendance, task completion, problem solving, endurance, work speed, work accuracy, increased attention span, motor skills, and safety to groups of individuals;

3002.1.7.2. Provides direct assistance in training appropriate social interaction skills required in the workplace to groups of individuals;

3002.1.7.3. Implements the behavioral support plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors;

3002.1.7.4. Provides individual-specific assistance, such as assistance with personal care and self-administration of medications.

3002.1.8. The agency has adequate direct care staff with First Aid and CPR certifications to assure having at least one staff person with these certifications on duty during the provision of facility-based or mobile crew Prevocational Services.

3002.1.9. The type and number of all other staff associated with the organization (such as contract staff, consultants) are:

3002.1.9.1. Properly trained or credentialed in the professional field as required;

3002.1.9.2. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individuals as required;

3002.1.9.3. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

3002.1.10. National criminal records check (NCIC) documentation for all employees and any volunteers who have direct care, treatment, or custodial responsibilities for individuals served by the agency.

3002.2. Agency Policies and Procedures - Each provider agency must develop

written policies and procedures to govern the operations of Prevocational Services, which follow the Standards for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities refer to Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW.

3002.3. Documentation Requirement: Providers must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Prevocational Services:

3002.3.1. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;

3002.3.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

3002.3.3. Location where the service was delivered;

3002.3.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

3002.3.5. Progress towards moving the individual towards independence by meeting the individual ISP.

3002.4. Prevocational Services and Other Services in the Same Facility:

3002.4.1. Providers rendering facility-based Prevocational Services and other services (e.g., Community Access Services and adult therapy services) can provide these services in the same facility; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

3002.4.2. Providers may grant access to other Medicaid providers for the provision of services at the facility; however, the services must be documented and billed separately, and any waiver individual receiving multiple waiver services may not receive these services at the same time of the same day.

3002.5. Providers must meet the following requirements for staff-to-individual ratios:

3002.5.1. Facility-Based Prevocational Services: a staff to individual ratio of one to two or more, not to exceed one (1) to ten (10).

3002.5.2. Mobile Crew Prevocational Services: a staff to individual ratio of one to two or more, not to exceed one (1) to six (6).

3002.5.3. The staff to individual ratio may be more intense than the upper limit indicated above; the actual ratio must be as indicated by the individualized needs of the individuals.

3002.6. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 603).

3002.7. Fair Labor Standards Act Requirements: Providers must adhere to the requirements of Part 525 of the Fair Labor Standards Act as follows:

3002.7.1. Meet all requirements for time rates, piece rates, commensurate wages and fair business practices.

3002.7.2. Maintain Department of Labor certificates appropriate to the program provided and/or the individual if sub minimum wage employment is provided.

3002.7.3. Determines Special Minimum Wage as specified in the Fair Labor Standards Act.

3002.8. Prevocational Services are time-limited and must not exceed two (2) years. If the individual has received at least a year (12 months) of Prevocational Services justification must document the following assessment of necessity and adequacy of the continuation of Prevocational Services for the individual:

3002.8.1. Consideration of the following by the support coordinator and interdisciplinary team developing the ISP:

3002.8.1.1. Amount of time receiving Prevocational Services.

3002.8.1.2. Progress on any or all Prevocational Services goal(s);

3002.8.1.3. Interest of individual in working in competitive integrated employment; and

3002.8.1.4. Any current or prior receipt of Supported Employment Services through the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) or DBHDD.

3002.8.2. Determination by the support coordinator and interdisciplinary team of continuance or discontinuance Services for the individual bases on the above assessment.

3002.8.3. The provider of Prevocational Services for any individual for whom this section is applicable must maintain a copy of the required documentation in the individual's record.

3002.9. Physical Environment

Providers who render facility-based Prevocational Services must provide these services in a facility that meets the following requirements:

3002.9.1. Accessibility: Is accessible to and usable by individuals and meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements for facilities.

3002.9.2. Building Construction and Maintenance: Is constructed, arranged, and maintained so as to provide adequately for health, safety, access, and wellbeing of the individuals.

3002.9.3. Building Codes: Is in compliance with all local building codes and other applicable codes;

3002.9.4. Lighting: Provides adequate lighting for individuals' activities and safety;

3002.9.5. Ventilation: Is adequately ventilated at all times by either mechanical or natural means to provide fresh air and the control of unpleasant odors;

3002.9.6. Floor Space: Has adequate floor space to safely and comfortably accommodate the number of individuals for all activities and services provided in that space;

3002.9.7. Furnishings: Has sufficient furniture for use by individuals, which provide comfort and safety; are appropriate for population served, including any individuals with physical, visual, and mobility limitations; and provide adequate seating and table space for individual activities in the facility, including dining if applicable; Is accessible to and usable by individuals and meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements for facilities.

3002.9.8. Environmental/Sanitation: Is in good repair and clean inside and outside of the facility, including being free from liter, extraneous materials, unsightly or injurious accumulations of items and free from pest and rodents;

3002.9.9. Temperature Conditions: Has an adequate central heating and cooling system or its equivalent at temperature ranges that are consistent with the individual health needs and comfort of individuals:

3002.9.10. Equipment Maintenance: Maintains all essential mechanical, electrical, and individual activity, care and support equipment in safe operating condition;

3002.9.11. Drinking Fountain: Must have drinking fountain(s)

approved by the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Public Health or provide access to single disposable cups to individuals, with individuals disposing of the used cups immediately after use;

3002.9.12. Restrooms: Has a minimum of at least two toilets and lavatories available, with accessibility for individuals with physical and mobility limitations, including installed grab bars;

3002.9.13. Individual Activities and Dining Space: Has one or more clean, orderly, and appropriate furnished rooms of adequate size designated for individual activities and, if applicable, dining. If the facility has a single room for individual activities and dining, the room provides sufficient space to accommodate both activities without interfering with each other;

3002.9.14. Medication Storage: Assures that medications are:

3002.9.14.1. Stored under lock and key at all times. A staff member may keep medications needed for frequent or emergency use. The provider stores medications that require refrigeration in a locked container in the refrigerator;

3002.9.14.2. Kept in original containers with original labels intake or in labeled bubble packs from a pharmacy;

3002.9.14.3. Handled in accordance with current applicable State laws and regulations.

3002.9.15. Documentation of Self-Administration of Medications: The facility maintains documentation of all self-administration of medications supervised by facility staff. The documentation record must include the name of the medication, dosage, date, time, and name of the staff person who assists the individuals in the self-administration of medications by the individual.

3002.9.16. Evacuation Plan: The facility formulates a plan for evacuation of the building in case of fire or disaster. This plan is posted in a clearly visible place in each room. All employees are instructed and kept informed of their duties under the plan.

3002.9.17. Food Services: The following only apply if the facility stores, prepares, or distributes food:

3002.9.17.1. The facility observes and complies with all of the Rules of Department of Human Services (DHS), Public Health, Chapter 290-5-14, Food Service and any local health ordinances when engaged in the storage, preparation, and distribution of food.

3002.9.17.2. Meals and snacks are prepared either on site or under subcontract with an outside vendor who agrees to comply with the food and nutritional requirements. The facility posts its current Food Service Permit and inspection report or the subcontracted vendor's current Food Service Permit and inspection report.

3002.9.17.3. The facility has a designated kitchen area for receiving food, facilities for warming or preparing cold food, and clean–up facilities including hot and cold running water. The facility provides palatable, nutritious and attractive meals and snacks that meet the nutritional requirements of each member.

3002.9.18. Transportation: The family or representative may choose to transport the member to the Prevocational Services facility.

Note. The Department will allow the facility to be exempted from the Food Service Permit requirement if all the facility does is use a microwave to heat up food individuals bring to the facility.

This exception is allowed only if:

The microwave oven is clean, in good repair, and free of unsanitary conditions
The microwave oven is allowed for warming of permitted foods and beverages based on the provider's internal policies and procedures.
All food and utensils are handled in a sanitary manner.

3002.9.18.1. Individual Site Enrollment: Part I Policies and

Procedures for Medicaid/Peachcare for Kids require that each provider enroll at each location where services are provided to Medicaid members. Each individual, facility-based Prevocational Services site must be individually enrolled.

3003. Special Eligibility Conditions

3003.1. Prevocational Services are available only for individuals for whom the service is not available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.). Documentation is maintained in the file of each individual receiving Prevocational Services that these services are not available through any of these programs.

3003.2. Prevocational Services are for individuals not expected to be able to join the general work force within one year as documented in the Individual Service Plan.

3003.3. The need for Prevocational Services must be related to the individual disability and services must be therapeutic in nature.

3004. Prior Approval

Prevocational Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan (ISP) development and with any ISP version changes.

3005. Covered Services

Reimbursable Prevocational Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

3005.1. Teaching such concepts as rule compliance, attendance, task completion, problem solving, endurance, work speed, work accuracy, increased attention span, motor skills, and safety.

3005.2. Instruction in appropriate social interaction skills required in the workplace.

3005.3. Individual-specific assistance, such as assistance with personal care and self-administration of medications, as identified in the Individual Service Plan.

3005.4. Facility-based training and/or assistance.

3005.5. Mobile crews, which consist of a group of individuals who engage in prevocational services by performing tasks, such as cleaning or landscaping, at community sites at sites outside the facility.

3005.6. Transportation is required to and from the facility site (a reasonable amount of transportation, defined as up to one hour per day, is billable).

3006. Non-Covered Services

3006.1. Prevocational Services are distinct from and do not occur at the same time of day as Community Access or Supported Employment services.

3006.2. Services that are available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

3006.3. Medically related services that are not allowable by State law, rules, and regulations.

3006.4. Prevocational Services may not be delivered in an individual's own or family home or any residential site.

3006.5. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 900.

3006.6. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

3007. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rate for Prevocational Services is found in Appendix A.

Transportation provided through these services is included in the cost of doing business and incorporated in the administrative overhead cost.

3008. Participant-Direction Options

3008.1. Prevocational Services are not eligible for any participant-direction option.

3008.2. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 3100: Specific Program Requirements for Respite Services Scope of Services

3101. General Description of Respite Services

Respite Services provide brief periods of support or relief for family or other unpaid caregivers of individuals with disabilities. Respite is provided in the following situations:

3101.1. When families or other unpaid caregivers are in need of support or relief in order to leave the home for periods during the day or overnight;

3101.2. When the individual needs relief or a break from the caregiver;

3101.3. When relief from caregiving is necessitated by unavoidable circumstances, such as a family emergency.

Planned respite provides brief periods of support or relief for caregivers or individuals. Respite Services might also be needed to respond to family emergency situations. Respite is intended to be a short-term service for an individual who requires a period of structured support, or when respite services are necessitated by unavoidable circumstances, such as a family emergency. Respite may be provided as in-home support Provider agencies approved by DBHDD for in home respite (in individual's home) and/or out-of-home (individual receives service outside of their home). Approved providers may deliver out of home respite services in a host home managed by a Community Residential Alternative provider or in a licensed Personal Care Home or Community Living Arrangement.

Respite services are provided in the following configurations which may be used interchangeably by family members responsive to need:

In-Home Respite-15-Minute Unit	1 Member
In-Home Respite-15-Minute Unit	2 Members
In-Home Respite-15-Minute Unit	3 Members
Out of Home Respite-15-Minute Unit	1 Member Only
Respite-Daily	Category 1
Respite-Daily	Category 2

3102. Special Requirements of Participation

3102.1. DD Service Agencies rendering Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

3102.2. A designated agency director. Additional information regarding director qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701.

3102.2.1. Duties of the Agency Director include, but are not limited to:

3102.2.1.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

3102.2.1.2. Manages the use of agency funds;

3102.2.1.3. Ensures the development and updating of required policies of the agency;

3102.2.1.4. Manages the employment of staff and professional contracts for the agency;

3102.2.1.5. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

3102.3. A Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) (for definition, Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf

The agency director who meets the qualifications of a Developmental Disability Professional may serve both roles. provided the staff members meets the professional qualifications for each role.

3102.4. Direct Care Staff who must:

3102.4.1. Be 18 years or older;

3102.4.2. Have a high school diploma or equivalent (General Educational Development or GED) or have a minimum score of 75 on the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (STOFHLA) or Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (TOFHLA). (Rev 04/2022 Rev 10/2022)

3102.4.3. Meet transportation requirements in COMP Part II Chapter 900, section 905 if transporting individuals.

3102.4.4. Be provided with a basic orientation prior to direct contact with individuals and show competence in:

3102.4.4.1. The purpose and scope of the service to be delivered, including related policies and procedures;

3102.4.4.2. Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken;

3102.4.4.3. Rights and responsibilities of individuals;

3102.4.4.4. Requirements for recognizing and reporting

suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any individual:

3102.4.4.4.1. To the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;

3102.4.4.4.2. Within the organization;

3102.4.4.4.3. To appropriate regulatory or licensing agencies; and

3102.4.4.4.4. To law enforcement agencies

The agency has adequate direct care staff with First Aid and CPR certifications to assure having at least one staff person with these certifications on duty during the provision of service.

The type and number of all other staff associated with the organization (such as contract staff, consultants) are:

3102.4.4.4.5. Properly trained or credentialed in the professional field as required;

3102.4.4.4.6. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individuals as required; and

3102.4.4.4.7. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

National criminal records check (NCIC) documentation for all employees and any volunteers who have direct care, treatment, or custodial responsibilities for individuals served by the agency pursuant to DBHDD Policy 04-104 and all policy outlined in Part I Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/Peachcare for Kids.

Provider agencies must have available a sufficient number of employees or professionals under contract.

Service-specific staff duties are outlined in the following chapters.

Agency Policies and Procedures: Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of the agency and which follow the Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities found at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf.

DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 603).

3102.5. In-Home Respite Services Provider

3102.5.1. Licensure

Provider agencies that render In-home Respite Services must hold a current Private Home Care Provider License from the Department of Community Health, Healthcare Facilities Regulation Division (HFR). Licensure level must be commensurate with the level of service Licensure level must be commensurate with the level of service delivered:
personal care tasks; and/or
companion or sitter tasks

Please refer to https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/hfrd/hfrd-laws-regulations for information about specific licensure regulations.

For more information about provider enrollment, please refer to Part II, Chapters 600 – 1200, Policies and Procedures for Comprehensive

Supports Waiver Program (Comp) and New Options Waiver Program (Now) General Manual.

3102.5.2. Supervision and Direct Support Staff Duties

3102.5.2.1. Supervision of Direct Support Staff

All agency providers must comply with staff supervision requirements as defined in Private Home Care licensure Rules.

3102.5.2.2. Duties of Direct Support Staff

Duties of direct support Respite staff include, but are not limited to:

3102.5.2.2.1. Provide direct assistance to the individual in self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills training, retention and improvement;

3102.5.2.2.2. Provide personal care and protective oversight and supervision;

3102.5.2.2.3. Implement the behavioral support plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors;

3102.5.2.2.4. Provide assistance and training on independent community living skills, such as personal hygiene, light housework, laundry, meal preparation, transportation, grocery shopping, using the telephone, and medication and money management.

3102.5.2.2.5. Provide assistance in completing Outcomes and Goal(s) according to the current Individual Support Plan.

3102.5.2.3. Other Requirements

The agency has adequate direct care staff with First Aid and CPR certifications to assure having at least one staff person with these certifications on duty during the provision of services.

3102.6. Out-of-Home Respite Services Provider

Providers who render Respite Services outside the individual's own or family home must meet the following requirements:

3102.6.1. Provider Agencies of Out-of-Home Respite Services

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and PART II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the NOW and COMP Program, provider agencies who render out-of-home Respite Services must meet the following requirements:

3102.6.1.1. Licensure and Delivery Settings

Setting	**License Required**	**Citation Source**
Community Living Arrangement	Yes	https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/be-connected/licensure-information
Child Placing Agency	Yes	https://dhs.georgia.gov/child-placing-agencies-cpa
Host Home	No	* N/A
Personal Care Home	Yes	https://dch.georgia.gov/divisionsoffices/hfrd/hfrd-laws-regulations

Community Living Arrangement: provider-operated residence with license capacity approval of four or fewer residents.

Child Placing Agency: provider-operated residence licensed for residential support of all age-appropriate waiver individuals.

Host Home/Life Sharing Site: private residence in which the occupant owner or lessee provides residential services to one or two persons.
* Refer to DBHDD policy 02-704 Process for Enrolling, Matching, and Monitoring Host Home/Life-Sharing Sites for DBHDD Developmental Disability Community Service Providers

3102.6.1.2. Supervision and Direct Support Staff Duties

3102.6.1.2.1. Supervision of Direct

Support Staff

Respite providers delivering out-of-home services must comply with staff supervision and training requirements as defined in licensure Rules and DBHDD policy for Host Home/Life Sharing Sites.

Enrolled Respite provider agencies provide nursing consultation and oversight through direct employment status or through contracted nursing services. Consultative nursing provides support to direct care staff and managers on an as needed basis and is available to respite staff to assist with healthcare decisions, training direct care staff, and communication with physicians and other healthcare providers.

Consultative nursing does not replace direct nursing services if required to treat, evaluate or monitor specific conditions. Policies and Procedures for Nursing Services directly reimbursed through the COMP Waiver Program are outlined in Part III Policies and Procedures for Comprehensive Supports Waivers Program.

3102.6.1.2.2. Direct Care Staff

Duties of the Direct Care Staff include, but are not limited to:

3102.6.1.2.2.1. Providing individual-specific assistance and training in activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, grooming, other personal hygiene, feeding, toileting,

transferring, and other similar tasks;

3102.6.1.2.2.2. Accompanying individuals and facilitating participation in visits for medical care and other community activities if needed;

3102.6.1.2.2.3. Assistance in household care, such as meal preparation, clothes laundering, bed-making, housecleaning, shopping, and other similar tasks;

3102.6.1.2.2.4. Assisting with therapeutic exercises, supervising self-administration of medication and performing health maintenance

activities;

3102.6.1.2.2.5. Implementing positive behavioral support plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors.

3102.6.1.2.3. Other Requirements

In respite service settings, at least one staff trained in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) and first aid is on duty at all times on each shift. Providers must comply with DBHDD Policy 04-104 relative to Criminal History Records Checks as well as all criminal background checks required by the applicable licensure Rules.

3102.6.1.3. Out of Home Respite Home Site Inspections: With the exception of providers of participant-directed services, individual providers who render out-of-home respite services must meet the following requirements:

3102.6.1.4. Initial Site Inspection: Designated DBHDD Field Office staff conduct the initial inspection for the above Physical Standards requirements of private residences of an individual provider prior to the rendering of Overnight Respite Services and send approval documentation to the DBHDD Service Administrator or designee.

3102.6.1.5. Re-Inspections of Site: CRA providers who deliver out-of-home Respite Services must re-inspect semiannually the host home site for the standards requirements,

document the meeting of these requirements, and make available documentation for review by Support Coordinators, and DBHDD and DCH staff.

3102.6.1.6. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Agency providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 600, Section 603).

3103. Special Eligibility Conditions

Waiver individual lives with and receives support from unpaid caregivers.

The need for Respite services must be reflected through assessed needs described as tasks or activities in the approved Individual Support Plan (ISP).

3104. Prior Approval

Respite Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office at least annually in conjunction with reevaluation of need, development of the initial and annual Individual Support Plan and with any ISP version changes completed based upon a change in condition or circumstances.

3105. Covered Services

Reimbursable Respite Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

3105.1. Planned or scheduled respite that provides brief periods of support or relief for caregivers or individuals (1) when families or the usual caregivers are in need of additional support or relief; or (2) when the individual needs relief or a break from the caregiver.

3105.2. Short-term Respite that provides a period of structured support for an individual due to unavoidable circumstances, such as a family emergency.

3105.3. Respite Services are short-term services during a day or overnight that include but are not limited to:

3105.3.1. Individual-specific assistance, such as assistance with

activities of daily living, self-administration of medications, and health maintenance activities, personal care and protective oversight.

3105.3.2. Direct assistance including transportation as needed to facilitate individuals' routine engagement in community social, recreational and leisure activities during absence from the family or natural home;

3105.3.3. Implementation of the behavioral support plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors;

3106. Non-Covered Services

3106.1. Services delivered in a personal care home or community living arrangement serving more than four individuals.

3106.2. Services provided in hospitals, ICF/ID facilities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.

3106.3. Services that duplicate or are provided at the same time of the same day as Community Living Support, Community Access or Supported Employment services.

3106.4. In-home Respite Services may not be delivered in foster homes, host homes, personal care homes, community living arrangements, or any other home/residence other than the individual's family home;

3106.5. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family.

3106.6. Medically related services that are not allowable by State law, rules, and regulations except health maintenance activities provided as defined in the Rules and Regulations for Proxy Caregivers Used in Licensed Healthcare Facilities, Chapter 111-8-100.

3106.7. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

3107. Documentation

3107.1. Documentation of In-home Respite services must include the following elements in the record of each individual:

3107.1.1. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;

3107.1.2. Date and the beginning and ending time of day(s) when the service was delivered;

3107.1.3. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

3107.1.4. Supervisory note documenting licensure-level required supervision of the direct support personnel;

3107.1.5. Progress in moving the individual towards his or her goal(s) and supporting the family. Relevant sections of the ISP include: person-centered goal(s) and desired outcomes in the individual's action plan, the amount/type of assistance/support in the ISP.

3108. Basis for Reimbursement

Reimbursement Rate: Reimbursement rates for Respite services are found in Appendix A.

For out-of-home Respite billed on a daily basis, there are two rate categories based on an individual's assessed needs as shown below:
Levels 1 through 4 = Rate Category 1
Level 5 through 7 = Rate Category 2

3109. Participant-Direction Options

3109.1. Individuals can choose the self-direction option with Respite Services.

3109.2. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider of Respite Services.

3109.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 3200: Specific Program Requirement for Specialized Medical Equipment Services Scope of Services

3201. General

Specialized Medical Equipment (SME) Services include various devices, controls or appliances which are designed to enable individuals to interact more independently with their environment thus enhancing their quality of life and reducing their dependence on physical support from others. SME services also include assessment or training needed to assist individuals with mobility, seating, bathing transferring, security or other skills such as operating a wheelchair, locks, or door opener. These services additionally consist of customizing a device to meet an individual's needs. The COMP is intended for those goods and services that are not covered by the State Medicaid Plan or those instances in which an individual's needs exceed State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

The COMP is the payer of last resource for items that are covered through the Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Orthotics and Prosthetics, and Hearing Services programs and other Medicaid State Plan programs. All items covered through these programs must be requested through the respective programs. Specialized Medical Equipment services must be documented to be the payer of last resource. The DME program prior approval process is used to determine medical necessity for medical equipment. The COMP does not cover items that have been denied through the DME and other programs for lack of medical necessity.

Providers for Specialized Medical Equipment should refer to Part II, Policies and Procedures for Durable Medical Equipment, Part II, Policies and Procedures for Orthotics and Prosthetics and Part III, Hearing Services for additional information about coverage of these services.

3202. Special Requirements of Participation

3202.1. Individual Vendor or Dealer

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, individual vendors and dealers in Specialized Medical Equipment must meet the following requirements:

3202.1.1. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving SME services:

3202.1.1.1. The efforts to substantiate payer of last resource, including available community, State Plan, or other resources by the individual's support coordinator.

3202.1.1.2. State Plan denial of coverage documentation received by the DME

Program.

3202.1.1.3. Verification of SME service delivery, including date, location, and specific equipment and assessment, training, customizing, or special circumstances repair of equipment provided.

3202.1.1.4. Documentation of associated administrative costs for SME service delivery that delineates line item sources of costs; billing of associated administration costs cannot exceed eight to ten (8 to 10) percent of any billing for Specialized Medical Equipment.

3202.1.2. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.

3202.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Specialized Medical Equipment Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

3202.2.1. Documentation Requirement: Documentation of associated administration costs for SME service delivery that delineates line-item sources of costs; billing of associated administration cost cannot exceed eight to ten (8 to ten) percent of any billing for SME services. Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving SME services:

3202.2.1.1. The efforts to substantiate payer of last resource, including available community, State Plan, or other resources by the individual's support coordinator.

3202.2.1.2. State Plan denial of coverage received by the DME Program.

3202.2.1.3. Verification of SME service delivery, including date, location, and specific equipment and assessment, training, customizing, or special circumstances repair of equipment provided.

3202.2.2. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.

3202.2.3. DBHDD Contract/LOA and MHDDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract Standards, DBHDD Core Requirements for All Providers and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 603).

3203. Licensure

Specialized Medical Equipment vendors must hold the applicable Georgia business license as required by the local, city or county government in which the services are provided.

3204. Special Eligibility Conditions

3204.1. The need for SME services must be related to the individual disability and specified in the Intake and Evaluation Team approved Individual Services Plan (ISP).

3204.2. When an individual only receives specialized services, a specific goal must be in the ISP for specialized services, which includes SME.

3204.3. Medical necessity for SME services must be documented through an order by a Georgia licensed physician.

3205. Prior Approval

3205.1. Individual receives recommendation in writing from physician stating a need for SME.

3205.2. Individual takes recommendation in writing to a DME vendor.

3205.2.1. Support Coordination may assist with locating/accessing an appropriate DME vendor

3205.2.2. DME vendor submits a prior approval request to the Department of Community Health using the prior approval process outlined in the policy manual for Durable Medical Equipment, Section 803, found on the web portal at www.mmis.georgia.gov.

3205.2.3. The Department's contractor approves or denies prior approval based on medical necessity criteria and notifies DME through electronic format of determination

3205.2.4. If there is not enough information to make the determination, the Department's contractor will request additional documentation from the appropriate party.

3205.2.4.1. If approved as a State Plan Service, the DME vendor then submits a claim and provides the medically necessary supplies to the individual.

3205.2.4.2. If denied for not meeting medical necessity criteria, the waiver will not pay for the SME.

3205.2.4.3. If denied for reasons other than medical necessity criteria, the waiver will pay for the SME. Some DME items allowable but only through the prior approval process described in Chapter 800 of the DME Program Manual (Section 802 of this chapter reviews which items requires prior approval. The following sections of this chapter describe the procedures for obtaining prior approval. Denial of prior approval for these items allows for billing of the waiver.

3205.2.4.4. If the DME vendor is unable to submit a prior authorization or obtain a denial because the medically necessary item is not a State Plan covered item, the provider maintains in the individual record a copy of the DME Policy Manual Section 902, 903, 904 or 905, substantiating the item is non-covered. This documentation will be accepted in lieu of a formal denial for supplies. With this documentation, the item can be purchased through the waiver.

3205.2.4.5. If the waiver will pay for the SME, the SME services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes.

3206. Covered Services

Reimbursable SME services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

3206.1. Purchase of equipment or the lease of equipment when cost effective.

3206.2. Devices, controls or appliances specified in the Individual Service Plan, which enable individuals to increase their abilities to perform activities of daily living and to interact more independently with their environment, including costs of assessment or training needed to assist individuals with use of devices, controls, or appliances, such as operating a wheelchair, locks, door openers, or side lyers.

3206.3. Applications, scanning communicators, speech amplifiers, control switches, electronic control units, wheelchairs, locks, door openers, or side lyers. (Rev 01/2017)

3206.4. Customizing a device to meet an individual's needs.

3206.5. Replacement or repair of equipment is covered in cases of special circumstances (e.g., from fire), normal wear and tear, or when the individual's condition changes.

3207. Non-Covered Services

3207.1. Equipment that has been denied through the DME and other programs for lack of medical necessity.

3207.2. Equipment covered under the Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Orthotics and Prosthetics, and Hearing Services programs and other Medicaid non-waiver programs.

3207.3. Environmental control equipment (e.g., air conditioners, dehumidifiers, air filters or purifiers).

3207.4. Comfort or convenience equipment (e.g., vibrating beds, over-the-bed trays, chair lifts).

3207.5. Institutional-type equipment (e.g., cardiac or breathing monitors).

3207.6. Equipment designed specifically for use by a physician and trained medical personnel (e.g., EKG monitor, oscillating bed and laboratory testing equipment).

3207.7. Physical fitness equipment (e.g., exercise cycle, exercise treadmill).

3207.8. Furnishing-type equipment (e.g., infant cribs).

3207.9. Home security items, (e.g., alarm systems, burglar bars, security cameras, personal emergency response systems and deadbolt locks).

3207.10. Elevators, chair lifts, and indoor ceiling lift systems.

3207.11. Equipment considered experimental or under investigation by the Public Health Service.

3207.12. Equipment associated with experimental medical practices or treatments.

3207.13. Infant and child car seats.

3207.14. Blood pressure monitors and weight scales.

3207.15. IPads, Computers, such as desktop and personal computers.

3207.16. Cell phones and minutes.

3207.17. Hot tubs, spas, and whirlpool tubs.

3207.18. Items that add value to a property, such as a fence.

3207.19. Equipment commonly used for recreational purposes, including but not limited to bicycles, trampolines, swimming pools, swing sets, slides, stereos, radios, televisions, and MP3 players.

3207.20. Equipment for education and related services by children for whom the Department of Education has primary responsibility (i.e., private schools, ABA in school, home-schooling, tutors).

3207.21. Equipment replacement or repair that is necessitated by individual neglect, wrongful disposition, intentional misuse or abuse. Equipment will not be replaced due to the individual's negligence and/or abuse (e.g., a wheelchair left outside). Equipment will not be replaced before its normal life expectancy has been attained unless supporting medical documentation of change in the physical or developmental condition of the individual.

3207.22. Extended warranties and/or maintenance agreement.

3207.23. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 900.

3207.24. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

3208. Basis for Reimbursement

Reimbursement Rate (Rev 10/2023 Rev 07/2024)

The reimbursement rate for the purchase, replacement or repair for Specialized Medical Equipment is the established Medicaid rate, or in the absence of a Medicaid rate, the lower of three price quotes or the annual maximum. Price quotes are not required for purchases, replacements, or repairs under $200.00. The reimbursement rate is inclusive of equipment and any necessary technical assistance in its usage. The reimbursement rates for all specialized services are found in Appendix A.

3209. Participant-Direction Options

3209.1. Individuals may choose the self-direction option with Specialized Medical

Equipment Services.

3209.2. If the individual (or representative, if applicable) opts for participant-direction of SME services, then this equipment will be purchased through participant-directed service delivery.

3209.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 3300: Specific Program Requirements for Specialized Medical Supplies Services Scope of Services

3301. General

Specialized Medical Supplies (SMS) Services include various supplies that enable individuals to interact more independently with their environment and contribute to an enhanced quality of life, as well as a reduced dependence on physical support from others. SMS includes items such as food supplements, special clothing, diapers, bed wetting protective chucks, and other supplies that are specified in the approved Individual Service Plan and are not available under the other Medicaid non-waiver programs. Ancillary supplies necessary for the proper functioning of approved devices are also included in this service. The COMP is intended for those goods and services that are not covered by other Medicaid programs or those instances in which an individual's needs exceed coverage limits in other Medicaid programs and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

Medical supplies can be obtained through the waiver if the supplies needed are not offered through the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) program (e.g. diapers and formula for individual 21 or older). When the medical supplies are not covered by the DME program it is not necessary to first submit a request to DME program before requesting SMS.

The COMP Waiver Program is the payer of last resource for items that are covered through the Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Orthotics and Prosthetics (O&P), and Hearing Services programs and other non-waiver Medicaid programs. All items covered through Medicaid non-waiver programs (e.g. dental, DME services, etc.) must be requested through the respective programs, Medicare or private insurance where eligible and coverable. DME and other specialized medical supplies services require prior approval through the related Medicaid Program. If the specialized medical supplies are non-covered through the related Medicaid Program, the services being requested through the COMP must be supported by:

3301.1. Documentation of COMP as payor of last resort as evidenced by:

3301.1.1. Documented phone calls to DME vendors to determine coverage through other healthcare funding sources

3301.1.2. Documented review of the DME policy manual found at https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/PubAccess.Provider%20Information/Provider%20Manuals/tabId/18/Default.aspx

3301.2. Documentation that service coverage has been exhausted in the other potential healthcare funding sources including State Plan Medicaid. The need for the services is documented through clinical evaluation.

The COMP does not cover items that have been denied through the DME or other Medicaid programs for lack of medical necessity. Supplies requested through the State DME program must comply with the guidelines outlined in Chapter 700 & 900 of Part II, Policies and Procedures for Durable Medical Equipment.

For specific benefit coverage and limitations, providers of DME and specialized medical supplies and services should refer to Part II Policies and Procedures manual for Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Part II, Policies and Procedures for Orthotics and

Prosthetics (O&P) and Part III, Hearing Services found at https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/PubAccess.Provider%20Information/Provider%20Manuals/tabId/54/Default.aspx.

Note: Pursuant to 42 CFR 440.70(b)(3)(i), "Supplies are health care related items that are consumable or disposable or cannot withstand repeated use by more than one individual, that are required to address an individual medical disability, illness, or injury." (Rev 07/2018)

3302. Special Requirements of Participation

3302.1. Individual Vendor or Dealer

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, individual vendors and dealers in Specialized Medical Supplies must meet the following requirements:

3302.1.1. Documentation Requirement: Providers must document the following in the record of each individual receiving SMS services:

3302.1.1.1. The efforts to substantiate payer of last resource, including available community, State Plan, or other resources by the individual's support coordinator.

3302.1.1.2. State Plan non-coverage of a particular item or items as evidenced by: (Rev 04/2018)

3302.1.1.2.1. Documented phone calls to DME vendors to determine coverage through other healthcare funding sources

3302.1.1.2.2. Documented review of the DME policy manual found at https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/PubAccess.Provider%20Information/Provider%20Manuals/tabId/18/Default.aspx

3302.1.2. Verification of SMS service delivery, including date, location, and specific supplies provided.

3302.1.3. Documentation of associated administration costs for SMS service delivery that delineates line item sources of costs;

billing of associated administration costs cannot exceed eight to ten (8 to 10) percent of the cost of Specialized Medical Supplies.

3302.1.4. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

3302.1.5. Transfer of Specialized Medical Supplies with Transition to New Provider: Specialized Medical Supplies billed for an individual must transfer with the individual when the individual transitions to a new waiver provider (e.g., SMS purchased in bulk for the individual for the entire quarter or year). This transfer of SMS includes all Specialized Medical Supplies billed for the individual but not yet provided to or used by the individual.

3302.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Specialized Medical Supplies Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

3302.2.1. Documentation Requirement: Providers must document the following in the record of each individual receiving SMS services:

3302.2.1.1. The efforts to substantiate payer of last resource, including available community, State Plan, or other resources by the individual's support coordinator.

3302.2.1.2. State Plan non-coverage of a particular item or items as evidenced by: (Rev 04/2018)

3302.2.1.2.1. Documented phone calls to DME vendors to determine coverage through other healthcare funding sources

3302.2.1.2.2. Documented review of the DME policy manual found at https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/PubAccess.Provider%20Information/Provider%20Manuals/tabId/18/De

fault.aspx

3302.2.1.3. The following items do not require State Plan denial of coverage documentation for adults over age 21:

3302.2.1.3.1. Diapers

3302.2.1.3.2. Chucks (used to line the bed for incontinent people)

3302.2.1.3.3. Diaper wipes

3302.2.1.3.4. Nutritional supplements for adults

3302.2.1.3.5. Medication not covered by Medicaid

3302.2.1.3.6. Hearing aides

3302.2.1.3.7. Eyeglasses

3302.2.1.3.8. Condom catheters

3302.2.1.3.9. Bibs

3302.2.1.3.10. Med Cups

3302.2.1.4. Verification of SMS service delivery, including date, location, and specific supplies provided.

3302.2.1.5. Documentation of associated administration costs for SMS service delivery that delineates line item sources of costs; billing of associated administration costs cannot exceed eight to ten (8 to 10) percent of the cost of Specialized Medical Supplies. (Rev 04/2018)

3302.2.2. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.

3302.2.3. DBHDD Contract/LOA and MHDDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract Standards, DBHDD Core Requirements for All Providers

and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 603).

3302.2.4. Transfer of Specialized Medical Supplies with Transition to New Provider: Specialized Medical Supplies billed for an individual must transfer with the individual when the individual transitions to a new waiver provider (e.g., SMS purchased in bulk for the individual for the entire quarter or year). This transfer of SMS includes all Specialized Medical Supplies billed for the individual but not yet provided to or used by the individual.

3303. Licensure

Specialized Medical Supplies vendors must hold the applicable Georgia business license as required by the local, city or county government in which the services are provided.

3304. Special Eligibility Conditions

3304.1. The need for SMS services must be related to the individual's disability and verified through clinical evaluation.

Medical necessity for SMS services must be documented through an order by a Georgia licensed physician, except for continence supplies which are approved by the Clinical Reviewer in the review of the ISP. Pharmacy generated confirmation of prescriptions is an acceptable practice. (Rev 01/2022)

3305. Prior Approval

3305.1. Individual receives recommendation in writing from physician stating a need for SMS, except for continence supplies which are approved by the Clinical Reviewer in the review of the ISP and related documentation.

3305.2. SMS provider attempts to procure the items through a DME vendor through all available healthcare coverage sources including but not limited to: private insurance, Medicare, and/or State Plan Medicaid.

Note: Representatives/individuals self-directing SMS are required to attempt to access SMS items through a DME vendor using all available healthcare coverage sources including but not limited to: private insurance, Medicare, and/or State Plan Medicaid.

3305.2.1. Support Coordination will assist with locating/accessing an appropriate DME vendor

3305.3. DME vendor provides the item/items through authorization and reimbursement through a non-waiver fund source or verifies that the item/items are not reimbursed through any other healthcare fund source. (Rev 04/2018)

3305.3.1. Items covered by State Plan Medicaid are processed as outlined in the policy manual for Durable Medical Equipment, Section 803, found on the web portal at www.mmis.georgia.gov.

3305.4. The DME vendor may be required to seek additional information for prior approval such as clear physician orders or other medical necessity documentation.

3305.4.1. If denied for not meeting medical necessity criteria, the waiver will not pay for the SMS.

3305.4.2. If denied for reasons other than medical necessity criteria, the waiver will authorize the item(s) under SMS.

3305.4.3. If the DME vendor is unable to submit a prior authorization or obtain a denial because the medically necessary item is not a State Plan covered item, the provider maintains in the individual record a copy of the DME Policy Manual Section 902, 903, 904, or 905, substantiating the item as non-covered. This documentation will be accepted in lieu of the formal denial for the supplies. With this documentation, the item can be purchased through SMS waiver funds.

3305.5. SMS services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office agency at least annually during the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes. A current prescription, including a pharmacy generated prescription, is an acceptable form of documentation. The date of the prescription does not have to align with the date of the ISP. (Rev 10/2023)

NOTE: Prior approval through the DME Program will not be required for items listed above in 2501.1b and 2502.1 (1b).

3305.6. The following items do not require State Plan denial of coverage documentation:

3305.6.1. Medications with a valid prescription not covered under the State Plan

3305.6.1.1. Bibs

3305.6.1.2. Med Cups

3305.6.1.3. Diapers

3305.6.1.4. Chucks (used to line the bed for incontinent people)

3305.6.1.5. Diaper wipes

3305.6.1.6. Nutritional supplements for adults

3305.6.1.7. Medication not covered by Medicaid

3305.6.1.8. Hearing aides

3305.6.1.9. Eye glasses

3305.6.1.10. Condom catheters

3306. Covered Services (Rev 04/2018)

Reimbursable SMS services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

3306.1. Specialized Medical Supplies are various supplies, which enable individuals to interact more independently with their environment thus enhancing their quality of life and reducing their dependence on physical support from others.

3306.2. Nutritional supplements, such as Ensure, Isomil, and Boost, for individuals 21 years of age or older.

3306.3. Nutritional supplements, such as Ensure, Isomil, and Boost, for individuals under the age of 21 years only if insurance benefits and/or State Plan coverage is exhausted.

3306.4. Special clothing, such as specially designed vests to assist with wheelchair transfers and re-positioning, adaptive clothing for individuals with limited mobility, clothing designed with G-tube access openings, and other easy access clothing specifically designed for individuals with disabilities.

3306.5. Diapers, bed wetting protective chucks, and other continence supplies.

3306.6. Other supplies with documented medical necessity that are related to the individual's disability, such as supplies for ongoing medical or nursing care of the individual.

3306.7. Ancillary supplies necessary for the proper functioning of approved devices are also included in this service.

3306.8. Infection control supplies, such as non-sterile gloves, aprons, masks and gowns, when services are provided by an individual. Supplies used by agencies are customarily included in the agency's reimbursement rate for services. However, when supplies are required in quantity, for recurring need and are included in the ISP for a specific individual these supplies would be considered as a separate billable item under this program. Supplies that are considered as separate billable items must meet the following criteria:

3306.8.1. The supply is directly identifiable to an individual.

3306.8.2. The item furnished at the direction of the individual's physician and is specifically identified in the ISP and only used by that individual.

3306.9. Over-the-counter (OTC) medications when prescribed by a physician and related to a diagnosed condition.

3306.10. Medications not covered by the Medicaid State Plan when written documentation from the pharmacy for non-coverage of the medication through the State Medicaid Plan is in the individual's record.

3307. Non-Covered Services

3307.1. Items covered under the Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Orthotics and Prosthetics, and Hearing Services programs and other Medicaid non-waiver programs.

3307.2. Items that have been denied through the DME and other programs for lack of medical necessity.

3307.3. Environmental control items (e.g., air conditioners, dehumidifiers, air filters or purifiers).

3307.4. Comfort or convenience items.

3307.5. Physical fitness items (e.g., exercise cycle, exercise treadmill).

3307.6. Supplies considered experimental.

3307.7. Experimental medicines, practices, or treatments.

3307.8. Infant and child car seats.

3307.9. Blood pressure monitors and weight scales.

3307.10. Computer supplies (printers, cartridges, speakers and other supplies).

3307.11. Cell phones and minutes.

3307.12. Ancillary supplies for the proper functioning of non-approved devices or equipment.

3307.13. Supplies for education and related services by children for whom the Department of Education has primary responsibility (i.e., private schools, ABA in school, home-schooling, tutors).

3307.14. Vitamins, herbal supplement, nutritional oils, and other non-nutritional supplements are not covered except when prescribed by a physician and related to a diagnosed condition.

3307.15. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and

Procedures for COMP, Chapter 900.

3307.16. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

3307.17. Medications covered by the Medicaid State Plan are not allowed.

3307.18. Co-pays for medications.

3307.19. Bicycles, trampolines, swimming pools, swing sets, slides, stereos, radios, televisions, and MP3 players. (Rev 01/2016)

3308. Basis for Reimbursement

Reimbursement rate for Specialized Medical Supplies is individual specific up to the annual maximum. The reimbursement rates for all specialized services are found in Appendix A.

3309. Participant-Direction Options

3309.1. Individuals may choose the self-direction option with Specialized Medical Supplies Services.

3309.2. If the individual (or representative, if applicable) opts for participant direction of SMS services, then these supplies will be purchased through participant-directed service delivery.

3309.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 3400: Specific Program Requirements for Supported Employment Services Scope of Services

3401. General

Supported Employment services are ongoing supports that enables individuals, for whom competitive employment as or above the minimum wage is unlikely absent the provision of supports, and who, because of their disabilities, need supports, to perform in a regular work setting. Supported Employment services are conducted in a variety of settings, particularly work sites where persons without disabilities are employed. Individuals who receive Supported Employment services must require long-term, direct or indirect job-related support in job supervision, adapting equipment, adapting behaviors, transportation assistance, peer support, and/or personal care assistance during the workday.

Supported Employment has four distinct categories: Job Maintenance, Individual Job Coaching, Individual Job Development, and Group.

Supported Employment Job Maintenance services consist of activities needed to sustain paid work by individuals, including supervision, training, and services and supports that assist individuals in achieving self-employment through the operation of a business, including helping the individual identifying the supports that are necessary for the individual to operate a business, and providing ongoing assistance, counseling and guidance once the business has been launched. Services must be delivered on a one-to-one basis. These services do not include the supervisory activities rendered as a normal part of the business setting. Individuals authorized for Job Maintenance activities typically require occasional support and generally do not need support for every hour they work. To be authorized for Job Maintenance, an individual must work at least 60 hours per month.

Supported Employment Individual Job Coaching services consist of activities needed to sustain paid work by individuals, including supervision, training, and services and supports that assist individuals to advance in their careers or achieve self-employment through the operation of a business. This service is distinguished from Job Maintenance in that individuals authorized for Job Coaching typically require more direct, face-to-face support on an ongoing basis.

The planned outcomes of these services are to increase the hours worked by each individual toward the goal of forty hours per week and to increase the wages of each individual toward the goal of increased financial independence. Supported Employment services are based on the individual's needs, preferences, and informed choice. These services allow for flexibility in the amount of support an individual receives over time and as needed in various work sites.

Supported Employment Individual Job Development services consist of activities needed to obtain paid work by individuals, including job location, prospective employer outreach, assistance with resume development, and job interview preparation, as well as services and supports that assist individuals in achieving self-employment through the establishment of a business. Job Development services can only be authorized when not available through the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA).

Supported Employment Group services are provided to groups of individuals, with a staff to individual ratio of one to two or more. The staff to individual ratio for Supported Employment Group services cannot exceed one (1) to ten (10).

Supported Employment Services Providers offer (or arrange when needed) any of the standard services listed in section 3305 – Covered Services that are needed by the individuals served and specified in the individuals' Individual Service Plans.

3402. Special Requirements of Participation

3402.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Supported Employment Services providers must meet the following requirements:

3402.1.1. Individual providers of Supported Employment services must meet the following requirements for Supported Employment Specialists:

3402.1.1.1. Be 18 years or older;

3402.1.1.2. Have a high school diploma or equivalent (General Educational Development or GED) or have a minimum score of 75 on the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (STOFHLA) or Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (TOFHLA). (Rev 04/2022 Rev 10/2022)

3402.1.1.3. Have current CPR and Basic First Aid certifications;

3402.1.1.4. Have the experience, training, education or skills necessary to meet the individual's needs for Supported Employment services as demonstrated by:

3402.1.1.4.1. Direct Support Professional (DSP) certification, and at least six (6) months of experience in supported employment of individuals with disabilities; or

3402.1.1.4.2. Copy of high school diploma/transcript or General Education Development (GED) diploma and at least six (6) months of experience in

supported employment of individuals with disabilities and fifteen (15) hours of training in providing supported employment of individuals with disabilities; or high school diploma or GED and one (1) year experience in providing supported employment to individuals with disabilities; or documented experience providing specific supports to individuals with disabilities related to the supported employment of those individuals.

3402.1.1.4.3. Agree to or provide required documentation of a criminal records check, prior to providing Supported Employment services.

3402.1.1.4.4. Meet transportation requirements in COMP Part II Chapter 900 Section 905 if transporting individuals.

3402.1.2. Documentation Requirement: Providers must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Supported Employment Services:

3402.1.2.1.1. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;

3402.1.2.1.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

3402.1.2.1.3. Location where the service was delivered;

3402.1.2.1.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and

his or her signature;

3402.1.2.1.5. Progress towards moving the individual towards independence by meeting the individual ISP.

3402.1.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Chapter Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

3402.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Supported Employment Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

3402.2.1. Staffing Qualifications and Responsibilities

Provider agencies rendering Supported Employment Services must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

3402.2.1.1. Supported Employment Specialists:

3402.2.1.2. Be 18 years or older;

3402.2.1.3. Have current CPR and Basic First Aid certifications;

3402.2.1.4. Have the experience, training, education or skills necessary to meet the individual's needs for Supported Employment services as demonstrated by:

3402.2.1.4.1. (1) Copy of high school diploma/transcript or General Education Development (GED) diploma and at least six (6) months of experience in supported employment of individuals with disabilities and fifteen (15) hours of training in providing supported employment of individuals with disabilities; or high school

diploma or GED and one (2) year experience in providing supported employment to individuals with disabilities.

3402.2.1.5. Agree to or provide required documentation of a criminal records check, prior to providing Supported Employment services.

3402.2.1.6. Meet transportation requirements in COMP Part II Chapter 900 Section 905 if transporting individuals.

3402.2.1.7. A designated agency director. Additional information regarding director qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701.

3402.2.1.8. Duties of the Agency Director include, but are not limited to:

3402.2.1.8.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

3402.2.1.8.2. Manages the use of agency funds;

3402.2.1.8.3. Ensures the development and updating of required policies of the agency;

3402.2.1.8.4. Manages the employment of staff and professional contracts for the agency;

3402.2.1.8.5. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence.

3402.2.1.9. At least one agency employee or professional under contract with the agency must:

3402.2.1.9.1. Be a Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) (for definition, see Part II Policies and

Procedures for COMP, Appendix I);

3402.2.1.9.2. Have responsibility for overseeing the delivery of Supported Employment Services to individuals.

3402.2.1.10. The same individual may serve as both the agency director and the Developmental Disability Professional;

A Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) (for definition, Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf

3402.2.1.11. Must have a minimum of one (1) employee that meets the Supported Employment Specialist experience, training, education or skills qualifications specified above for Individual Providers for every five (5) direct care staff members.

3402.2.1.12. Duties of the Supported Employment Specialist include, but are not limited to:

3402.2.1.12.1. Provides direct supervision of Direct Care Staff in their performance of Supported Employment services for individuals;

3402.2.1.12.2. Develops, acquires, and maintains work opportunities for individuals;

3402.2.1.12.3. Conducts necessary additional assessments at the work site;

3402.2.1.12.4. Helps individuals choose appropriate jobs or a specific employment option;

3402.2.1.12.5. Applies training techniques which enhance the social and vocational functioning of individuals;

3402.2.1.12.6. Monitors wages, hours, and productivity of individuals on an ongoing basis;

3402.2.1.12.7. Assists the individual, if applicable, in achieving self-employment through the operation of a business by:

3402.2.1.12.8. Aiding the individual to identify potential business opportunities;

3402.2.1.12.9. Assisting in the development of a business plan, including potential sources of business financing and other assistance in developing and launching a business;

3402.2.1.12.10. Identifying the supports that are necessary for the individual to operate a business;

3402.2.1.12.11. Providing ongoing assistance, counseling and guidance once the business has been launched.

3402.2.2. A minimum of one (1) direct care staff member or Supported Employment Specialist for every ten (10) individuals served in Group Supported Employment Services and minimum of one (1) direct care staff member or Supported Employment Specialist for every one (1) individual served in Individual Supported Employment Services;

3402.2.2.1. Direct Care Staff must:

3402.2.2.1.1. Be 18 years or older;

3402.2.2.1.2. Have a high school diploma or equivalent (General Educational Development or GED) or have a minimum score of 75 on the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy

for Adults (STOFHLA) or Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (TOFHLA).

3402.2.2.1.3. Meet transportation requirements in NOW and COMP Part II Chapter 900, Section 905 in transporting individuals.

3402.2.2.1.4. Be provided with a basic orientation prior to direct contact with individuals and show competence in:

3402.2.2.1.4.1. The purpose and scope of Supported Employment Services, including related policies and procedures;

3402.2.2.1.4.2. Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken;

3402.2.2.1.4.3. Rights and responsibilities of individuals;

3402.2.2.1.4.4. Requirements for recognizing and reporting suspected

abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any individual:

3402.2.2.1.4.5. To the DBHDD;

3402.2.2.1.4.6. Within the organization;

3402.2.2.1.4.7. To appropriate regulatory or licensing agencies; and

3402.2.2.1.4.8. To law enforcement agencies

3402.2.3. Duties of the Direct Care Staff include, but are not limited to:

3402.2.3.1. Provides direct assistance in activities needed for the individual or a group of individuals to sustain work, including job coaching, supervision and training;

3402.2.3.2. Provides direct assistance in training, retraining or improving the social and vocational functioning of the individual worker or groups of individual workers;

3402.2.3.3. Implements the behavioral support plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors;

3402.2.3.4. Provides active support and direct assistance in facilitating natural supports at the work site;

3402.2.3.5. Provides other support services at or away from the work site, such as transportation and personal assistance services.

3402.2.4. The type and number of all other staff associated with the organization (such as contract staff, consultants) are:

3402.2.4.1. Properly trained or credentialed in the professional field as required;

3402.2.4.2. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individuals as required;

3402.2.4.3. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

3402.2.5. National criminal records check (NCIC) documentation for all employees and any volunteers who have direct care, treatment, or custodial responsibilities for individuals served by the agency.

3402.2.6. Agency Policies and Procedures - Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of Supported Employment services, which follow the Standards for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities refer to Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP.

3402.2.7. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of individual-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Supported Employment Services:

3402.2.7.1. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;

3402.2.7.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

3402.2.7.3. Location where the service was delivered;

3402.2.7.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

3402.2.7.5. Progress towards moving the individual towards independence by meeting the individual ISP, which includes person-centered goal(s), desired outcomes in the individual's action plan, and the amount/type of assistance/support in the ISP.

3402.2.8. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other

Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.

3402.2.9. Providers must meet the following requirements for staff-to-individual ratios:

3402.2.9.1. Group Supported Employment Services: a staff to individual ratio of one to two or more, not to exceed one (1) to ten (10).

3402.2.9.2. Individual Supported Employment Services: a one-to-one staff to individual ratio.

3402.2.10. Providers must develop and plan Supported Employment services and supports:

3402.2.10.1. Based on the individual's needs, preferences, and informed choice;

3402.2.10.2. To allow for flexibility in the amount of support an individual receives over time and as needed in various work sites;

3402.2.10.3. With attention to the health and safety of the individual;

3402.2.10.4. In accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, if applicable, to include documentation of sub-minimum wage;

3402.2.10.5. With planned outcomes, which include:

3402.2.10.5.1. Increases in hours worked by each individual toward the goal of 40 hours per week;

3402.2.10.5.2. Frequent opportunities for each individual to interact with non-disabled peers during the normal performance of the job and/or during breaks, lunch periods, or travel to and from work;

3402.2.10.5.3. Increases in wages of each individual toward the goal of increased financial

independence.

3402.2.11. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Agency providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 603).

3403. Special Eligibility Conditions

3403.1. Supported Employment Services are available only for individuals for whom the service is not available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.). Documentation is maintained in the file of each individual receiving Supported Employment Services that these services are not available through any of these programs.

3403.2. The need for Supported Employment Services must be related to the individual disability in the approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

3404. Prior Approval

Supported Employment Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the operating agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan (ISP) development and with any ISP version changes.

3405. Covered Services

Reimbursable Supported Employment Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual.

3405.1. Assisting the individual to locate a job or develop a job on behalf of the individual.

3405.2. Activities needed to sustain paid work by individuals, including supervision and training.

3405.3. Services and supports that assist the individual in achieving self-employment through the operation of a business and may include:

3405.3.1. Aiding the individual to identify potential business opportunities;

3405.3.2. Assistance in the development of a business plan, including potential sources of business financing and other assistance in developing and launching a business;

3405.3.3. Identification of the supports that are necessary for the

individual to operate the business; and

3405.3.4. Ongoing assistance, counseling and guidance once the business has been launched. Payment is not made to defray the expenses associated with starting up or operating a business.

3405.4. Adaptations, supervision, and training required by individuals receiving Supported Employment services as a result of their disabilities, when these services are provided in a work site where persons without disabilities are employed.

3405.5. Transportation of two or more individuals to community work sites is provided for individuals receiving Supported Employment Group services.

3405.6. Job Maintenance activities to maintain an individual in 60 to 80 or more hours of work per month.

3405.7. There is a monthly minimum requirement of two (2) in-person contacts for the purposes of billing Supported Employment Individual Job Maintenance.

3406. Non-Covered Services

3406.1. Incentive payments, subsidies, or unrelated vocational training expenses such as the following:

3406.1.1. Incentive payments made to an employer to encourage or subsidize the employer's participation in Supported Employment program;

3406.1.2. Payments that are passed through to users of Supported Employment programs; or

3406.1.3. Payments for training that is not directly related to an individual's Supported Employment program.

3406.2. Supervisory activities rendered as a normal part of the business setting.

3406.3. Supported Employment Services are distinct from and do not occur at the same time of the same day as Community Access, Prevocational or Transportation Services, with the exception of time-limited, non-face-to-face Supported Employment job development. The exception for Supported Employment job development must be documented sufficiently to demonstrate no duplication of services for an individual and a service provided in preparation for to demonstrate no duplication of services for an individual and a service provided in preparation for transition of an individual to Supported Employment Services.

3406.4. Services that are available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

3406.5. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 900.

3406.6. Supported Employment Services do not include sheltered work or other similar types of vocational services furnished in specialized facilities, such as service centers for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities

3406.7. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

3407. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rate for Supported Employment Services is found in Appendix A.

Separate authorization of transportation services may be made for COMP individuals to facilitate access to community work sites but must be provided by a vendor enrolled to provide transportation services or through individual direction.

3407.1. Supported Employment Job Maintenance

3407.1.1. Supported Employment Job Maintenance is billed as actual hours worked from 60 hours up to a maximum of 80 hours per month, even if the individual works more than 80 hours.

3407.1.2. Supported Employment Job Maintenance is billed under Supported Employment Group 1: 10 ratio from 240 units up to a maximum of 320 units per month.

3407.1.3. Supported Employment Group Services other than Job Maintenance cannot be billed in any month in which Supported Employment Job Maintenance is billed.

3407.1.4. Supported Employment Individual Services cannot be billed in any month in which Supported Employment Job Maintenance is billed.

3407.2. Supported Employment Group payment rates vary based on the staffing ratio, with separate rates for:

3407.2.1. 1:8 (one-to-eight) to 1:10 (one-to-ten)

3407.2.2. 1:5 (one-to-five) to 1:7 (one-to-seven)

3407.2.3. 1:3 (one-to-three) to 1:4 (one-to-four)

3407.2.4. 1:2 (one-to-two)

3408. Participant-Direction Options

3408.1. Individuals can choose the self-direction or co-employer options with Supported Employment services.

3408.2. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider of Supported Employment services.

3408.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

3409. Telehealth Options

3409.1. Supported Employment providers are expected to use synchronous audio/video technology for remote direct support services.

3409.2. All contracted waiver providers are covered entities and obligated to abide by HIPAA and state privacy law. Providers are required to use only HIPAA compliant platforms while offering remote direct support services. All contracted providers must sign business associate agreements with the operating agency, as required by HIPAA. All Supported Employment providers wishing to use remote modalities to deliver direct support services must obtain valid signed consent from the individual or their legal decision-maker.

3409.3. Remote direct support services must be rendered in quiet environment with attendance limited to the individual and whoever is assisting the employment specialist during the session as informant and/or following hands-on direction.

3409.4. The provision of remote direct support services does not supersede the expectation or requirement that Supported Employment providers must conduct a minimum of two in-person visits per month to the individual.

3409.5. For more information regarding remote guidance visit the DCH "Telehealth Guidance' manual at https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/PubAccess.Provider%20Information/Provider%20Manuals/tabId/18/Default.aspx .

Chapter 3500: Specific Program Requirements for Transportation Services Scope of Services

3501. General

Transportation Services enable waiver individuals to access non-medical services, activities, resources, and organizations typically utilized by the general population. These services are only provided as independent, stand-alone waiver services when transportation is not otherwise included as an element of another waiver service. Transportation services are not intended to replace available formal or informal transit options for individual s. Whenever possible, family, neighbors, friends or community agencies, which can provide this service, without charge, are to be utilized. Transportation Services may be used in areas where public transportation is not available and/or useable independently by the individual. The need for Transportation Services and the unavailability of other resources for transportation must be documented in the Individual Service Plan (ISP). (Rev 01/2018)

Transportation Services provide transportation for the individual to waiver services and other community services, activities, resources, and organizations typically utilized by the general population. These services include:

3501.1. One-way or round trips provided by Georgia licensed drivers and/or DD Service Agencies; and

3501.2. Transit by commercial carrier available to the community at large.

Transportation Services must not be available under the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Program, State Plan, Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or the Rehabilitation Act. These services do not include transit provided through Medicaid non-emergency transportation. Transportation Services are not available to transport an individual to school (through 12th grade). These services do not include transportation that is included as an element of another waiver service as follows:

3501.3. Community Living Support Services

3501.4. Prevocational Services

3501.5. Community Residential Alternative Services—Standard, Intensive, and Specialized

3501.6. Supported Employment Group Services

3501.7. Community Access Individual Services

3501.8. Community Access Group for activities and settings primarily utilized by people with disabilities, such as transportation to and from a developmental disability service center or other day center.

Transportation Services are only for individuals who do not have formal or informal transit options available. The type and amount of Transportation provided are specific to the individual and detailed in his or her Individual Service Plan. Transportation Services providers offer any of the standard services listed in section 3106—Covered Services that are needed by the individuals served

and specified in the individuals' Individual Service Plans.

3502. Special Requirements of Participation

3502.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Transportation Services providers must meet the following requirements:

3502.1.1. Transportation Provided: Individual providers rendering Transportation Services provide one-way or round trip transportation for individuals.

3502.1.2. Individual providers of Transportation must:

3502.1.2.1. Be 18 years or older;

3502.1.2.2. Have a valid, Class C license as defined by the Georgia Department of Driver Services;

3502.1.2.3. Have current mandatory insurance;

3502.1.2.4. Have no more than two chargeable accidents, moving violations, or any DUI's in a three (3) year period within the last five (5) years of the seven (7) year Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) period;

NOTE: The Department will allow an exception to Out-of-State Driver's License and MVP record under the following circumstances: (1) the individuals is on active duty in Georgia; (2) the individual is a college student enrolled at a Georgia college or university; or (3) the individual's place of residence is a neighboring state on the border of Georgia. For individual to be granted this exception, he or she must: Have a valid, Class C license

Have no convictions for substance abuse, sexual crime or crime of violence for five (5) years prior to providing.

3502.1.2.5. Have evidence of an annual health examination with signed statement from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that the person is free of communicable disease;

3502.1.2.6. Agree to or provide required documentation of a criminal records check, prior to providing Transportation Services.

3502.1.3. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Transportation Services:

3502.1.3.1. Specific type and purpose of transportation provided;

3502.1.3.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

3502.1.3.3. Location of origin and that for destination of transportation services;

3502.1.3.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

3502.1.3.5. Progress towards moving the individual towards independence by meeting the individual's ISP.4. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

3502.2. Transportation Broker Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Transportation Broker Provider Agencies must meet the following requirements: (Rev 01/2018)

3502.2.1. Community Commercial Carrier: Transportation Broker Provider Agencies rendering Transportation Services must provide commercial carrier services to the community at large or broker these services.

3502.2.2. Agency Policies and Procedures: Each Transportation Broker Provider Agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of Transportation Services.

3502.2.3. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving

Transportation Services:

3502.2.3.1. Specific type and purpose of transportation provided;

3502.2.3.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

3502.2.3.3. Location of origin and that for destination of transportation services;

3502.2.3.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

3502.2.3.5. Progress towards moving the individual towards independence by meeting the individual ISP-described goal(s).

3502.2.3.6. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.

3502.2.3.7. DBHDD Provider Requirements: Transportation Broker Provider Agencies must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, and any other applicable DBHDD Standards refer to Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP.

3502.3. DD Service Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, DD Service Agencies rendering Transportation Services must meet the following requirements: (Rev 01/2018)

3502.3.1. Transportation Provided: DD Service Agencies rendering Transportation Services provide one-way or round trip transportation for individuals.

3502.3.2. Staffing Qualifications and Responsibilities

Driver Staff meets the following criteria:

3502.3.2.1. Be 18 years or older;

3502.3.2.2. Be legally licensed in the State of Georgia with the class of license appropriate to the vehicle operated as follows:

3502.3.2.2.1. Have a valid, Class C license as defined by the Georgia Department of Driver Services for any single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating not in excess of 26,000 pounds.

3502.3.2.2.2. Have valid, Commercial Driver's License (CDL) as defined by the Georgia Department of Driver Services if the vehicle operated falls into one of the following three classes:

3502.3.2.2.2.1. If the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds or such lesser rating as determined by federal regulation; or

3502.3.2.2.2.2. If the vehicle is designated to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

3502.3.2.2.3. Have no more than two chargeable accidents, moving violations, or any DUI's in a three (3) year period within the last five (5) years of the seven (7) year Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) period;

NOTE: The Department will allow an exception to Out-of-State Driver's License and MVP record under the following circumstances: (1) the individuals is on active duty in Georgia; (2) the individual is a college student enrolled at a Georgia college or university; (3) the individual's place of residence is a neighboring state on the border of Georgia; or (4) the individual has moved to Georgia within the previous six months of employment date. For individual to be granted this exception, he or she must:

3502.3.2.2.3.1. Have a valid, Class C license

3502.3.2.2.3.2. Meet all requirements under criminal

3502.3.2.2.3.3. background check policy.

3502.3.2.2.3.4. Have current, valid insurance

3502.3.2.3. Be provided with a basic orientation prior to direct contact with individuals and show competence in:

3502.3.2.3.1. The purpose and scope of Transportation Services, including related policies and procedures;

3502.3.2.3.2. Confidentiality of individual information,

both written and spoken;

3502.3.2.3.3. Rights and responsibilities of individuals;

3502.3.2.3.4. Requirements for recognizing and reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any individual:

3502.3.2.3.4.1. To the DBHDD;

3502.3.2.3.4.2. Within the organization;

3502.3.2.3.4.3. To appropriate regulatory or licensing agencies; and

3502.3.2.3.4.4. To law enforcement agencies

3502.3.3. Duties of the Driver Staff include, but are not limited to:

3502.3.3.1. Provides transportation for the individual to waiver services and other community services, activities, resources, and organizations;

3502.3.3.2. Provides assistance to the individual in entering or exiting the vehicle.

3502.3.3.3. Ensures transportation from the designated pick up point to the designated drop off point.

3502.3.4. The agency has adequate driver staff with First Aid and CPR certifications to assure having at least one staff person with these certifications on duty during the provision of services.

3502.3.5. The type and number of all other staff associated with the organization (such as contract staff, consultants) are:

3502.3.5.1. Properly trained or credentialed in the professional field as required;

3502.3.5.2. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individuals as required;

3502.3.5.3. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

3502.3.6. National criminal records check (NCIC) documentation for all employees and any volunteers who have direct care, treatment, or custodial responsibilities for individuals served by the agency.

3502.4. Agency Policies and Procedures: Each DD Service Provider Agency must

develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of Transportation Services, which follow the Standards for the Division of Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities refer to Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP.

3502.5. Documentation Requirement: Providers must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Transportation Services:

3502.5.1. Specific type and purpose of transportation provided;

3502.5.2. Date and the beginning and ending time when the service was provided;

3502.5.3. Location of origin and that for destination of transportation services;

3502.5.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

3502.5.5. Progress towards moving the individual towards independence by meeting the individual ISP-described outcomes.

3502.6. DHS Vehicle Requirements

DD Service Agency Providers who render Transportation Services in a vehicle owned

by, titled to, or otherwise controlled by DHS must meet the policies and procedures for transportation and vehicle management in the DHS Transportation Manual, which is available at the following website: https://dhs.georgia.gov/organization/about/division-offices/operations/office-facilities-support-services/transportation.

3502.7. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements:

Documentation and other requirements for providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.

3502.8. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: DD

Service Agency Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 603).

3503. Licensure

3503.1. Individual Providers rendering Transportation Services must hold a valid

Class C license as defined by the Georgia Department of Driver Services.

3503.2. DD Service Provider Agency driver staff providing Transportation Services must hold the class of license appropriate to the vehicle operated as defined by the Georgia Department of Driver Services.

3504. Special Eligibility Conditions

3504.1. The need for Transportation services must be reflected in the Intake and

Evaluation Team approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

3504.2. The unavailability of other resources for transportation must be documented in the ISP.

3505. Prior Approval

Transportation Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes.

3506. Covered Services

Reimbursable Transportation services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

3506.1. One-way trip provided by Georgia licensed drivers or DD Service Agencies to waiver services and other community, non-medical services,

activities, resources and organizations typically utilized by the general population.

3506.2. One-way trip provided by Georgia licensed drivers or DD Service Agencies of one individual to Supported Employment Services community work sites.

3506.3. Brokering or provision of commercial carrier services available to the community at large.

3507. Non-Covered Services

3507.1. Transportation of a waiver individual to school (through 12th grade).

3507.2. Transportation that is included as an element of another waiver service as follows:

3507.3. Community Living Support Services

3507.4. Prevocational Services

3507.5. Community Access Group or Individual Services which entail activities and

settings primarily utilized by people with disabilities, such as transportation to and from an Intellectual or Developmental Disability Service Center or other day center.

Transit provided through Medicaid non-emergency transportation.

Transportation available under the State Medicaid Plan, including transportation to medical services, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or the Rehabilitation Act.

Individuals cannot receive Transportation Services if receiving Community Residential Alternative Services

Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 900.

Transportation services are not intended to replace available formal or informal transit options for individuals

Payment for vehicle maintenance.

3508. Basis for Reimbursement

The reimbursement rate for transportation services is found in Appendix A. (Rev 01/2021)

3508.1. Mileage Rates are established by the provider agency but must use a methodology of comparable transportation rates. (Rev 07/2024)

3509. Participant-Direction Options

3509.1. Individuals may choose the participant-direction or co-employer options with Transportation Services.

3509.2. An individual serving as a representative for a waiver individual in self-directed services is not eligible to be a participant-directed provider of Supported Employment Services.

3509.3. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 3600: Specific Program Requirements for Vehicle Adaptation Services Scope of Services

3601. General

Vehicle Adaptation Services include various adaptations and technical assistance to individually or family-owned vehicles which are designed to enable individuals to interact more independently with their environment thus enhancing their quality of life and reducing their dependence on physical support from others. Vehicle Adaptations are limited to an individual's or his or her family's privately owned vehicle and include such things as a hydraulic lift, ramps, special seats and other interior modifications to allow for access into and out of the vehicle as well as safety while moving. The adapted or to be adapted vehicle must be the individual's primary means of transportation.

Any item billed under Vehicle Adaptation Services must not be available under the State Medicaid plan. These services must also be documented to be the payer of last resource. The COMP does not cover items that have been denied through the DME and other programs for lack of medical necessity.

3602. Special Requirements of Participation

3602.1. Individual Provider

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, individual vendors and dealers in Vehicle Adaptations must meet the following requirements:

3602.1.1. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Vehicle Adaptation Services:

3602.1.1.1. The efforts of the Individual's Support Coordinator to substantiate payer of last resource, including available community, State Plan, or other resources.

3602.1.1.2. Verification of Vehicle Adaptation service delivery, including date, location, and specific vehicle adaptations provided.

3602.1.2. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.Refer to Section 3502.1 below.

3602.2. Provider Agencies

In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, Vehicle Adaptation Services provider agencies must meet the following requirements:

3602.2.1. Documentation Requirement: Providers, except for providers of participant-directed services, must document the following in the record of each individual receiving Vehicle Adaptation services:

3602.2.1.1. The efforts of the Individual's Support Coordinator to substantiate payer of last resource, including available community, State Plan, or other resources.

3602.2.1.2. Verification of Vehicle Adaptation service delivery, including date, location, and specific vehicle adaptations provided.

3602.3. Participant-Directed Services Documentation and other Requirements: Documentation and other requirements for individual providers of participant-directed services are specified in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 1200.

3602.4. DBHDD Contract/LOA and MHDDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract Standards, DBHDD Core Requirements for All Providers and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 603)).

3603. Licensure

Vehicle Adaptations are made by vendors with the applicable Georgia business license as required by the local, city or county government in which the services are provided.

3604. Special Eligibility Conditions

3604.1. The need for Vehicle Adaptation Services must be related to the individual disability and specified in the Intake and Evaluation Team approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

3604.2. Medical necessity for Vehicle Adaptation Services must be documented through and order by a Georgia licensed physician.

3605. Prior Approval

3605.1. Vehicle Adaptation Services must relate to specific individual goal(s) and

must be required to meet the needs of the individual.

3605.2. Vehicle Adaptation Services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office at least annually in conjunction with the ISP development and any ISP version changes.

3606. Covered Services

Reimbursable Vehicle Adaptation Services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual.

3606.1. Vehicle Adaptations are limited to an individual or his or her family's privately owned vehicle.

3606.2. Vehicle Adaptations include such things as a hydraulic lift, ramps, special seats and other interior modifications to allow for access into and out of the vehicle as well as safety while moving.

3606.3. Vehicle Adaptation to the individual's primary means of transportation.

3606.4. Repair of a prior existing vehicle adaptation provided the repair is less that replacement.

3606.5. Replacement of a prior existing vehicle adaptation if replacement is less than a repair.

3607. Non-Covered Services

3607.1. Adaptation, repair or replacement costs for adaptations to provider-owned vehicles.

3607.2. Adaptation, repair or replacement costs for adaptations to leased vehicles.

3607.3. Vehicle adaptations will not be replaced in less than three years except in extenuating circumstances and authorized by the Division of Medicaid, Department of Community Health.

3607.4. Vehicle backup sensor and alarm systems.

3607.5. Comfort, convenience, or recreational adaptation.

3607.6. Adaptation, replacement or repair that is necessitated by individual's neglect, wrongful disposition, intentional misuse or abuse. Adaptations will not be replaced due to the individual's negligence and/or abuse (e.g., before its normal life expectancy has been attained unless supporting medical documentation and change I the physical or developmental condition of the individual).

3607.7. Regularly scheduled upkeep and maintenance of the vehicle or its modifications.

3607.8. Adaptations of general utility that are not of direct medical or remedial

benefit to the individual.

3607.9. Purchase or lease of vehicles.

3607.10. Extended warranties and/or maintenance agreements.

3607.11. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 900.

3607.12. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

3608. Basis for Reimbursement

Reimbursement rate for Vehicle Adaptation is the lower of three price quotes or the lifetime maximum. The reimbursement rates for all specialized services are found in Appendix A. (Rev 07/2024)

3609. Participant-Direction Options

3609.1. Individuals may choose the self-direction option with Vehicle Adaptation.

3609.2. For details on participant-direction, see Part II Policies and Procedures for NOW and COMP, Chapter 1200.

Chapter 3700: Specific Program Requirements for Assistive Technology Scope of Services

3701. General

Assistive Technology (AT) covers goods and services that are not otherwise covered by Medicaid State Plan services. These goods and services address the AT needs of the individual that result from his or her developmental disability. AT consists of any technology that is used to maintain or improve functional capabilities of waiver recipients by augmenting strengths and providing an alternative mode of performing a task. For a list of AT goods and services, refer to section 3709 of this chapter.

3702. Special Requirements of Participation Section

3702.1. Provider Agency- Service

3702.1.1. In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, provider agencies of AT Services must meet the following requirements for evaluation and order:

3702.1.1.1. Georgia Licensed Occupational Therapist; or

3702.1.1.2. Georgia Licensed Speech Therapist;

3702.1.1.3. Georgia Licensed Audiologist;

3702.1.1.4. Georgia License Physical Therapist; or

3702.1.1.5. Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) accredited by Rehabilitation Engineering, and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) or other accredited institution; or

3702.1.1.6. Georgia Licensed Physician

3702.2. Provider Agency - Good

3702.2.1. In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, provider agencies of AT Goods must meet the following

requirements for goods distribution.

3702.2.2. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract Standards, DBHDD Core Requirements for All Providers and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 603).

3702.2.3. Registration with the Georgia Secretary of State for all providers excluding community service boards

3702.2.4. A minimum of 1-year prior experience as an AT goods or services provider (evidenced through invoicing, claims, bank summaries, or related practice) within the last 36 months or a letter of recommendation from manufacturer/publisher of product they represent.

3702.3. Individual Provider – Service

3702.3.1. In addition to those conditions of participation in the Medical Assistance Program as outlined in Part I, Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Manual applicable to all Medicaid providers, Section 106 (General Conditions of Participation), and Part II, Chapter 600 Policies and Procedures for the COMP Program, provider agencies of AT Services must meet the following requirements for evaluation and order:

3702.3.1.1. Georgia Licensed Occupational Therapist; or

3702.3.1.2. Georgia Licensed Speech Therapist;

3702.3.1.3. Georgia Licensed Audiologist;

3702.3.1.4. Georgia Licensed Physical Therapist;

3702.3.1.5. Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) accredited by Rehabilitation Engineering, and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) or other accredited institution; or

3702.3.1.6. Georgia Licensed Physicians.

3702.4. Documentation Requirement: Providers must document the following information in the individual's record regarding AT services:

3702.4.1. The efforts to substantiate DBHDD as payer of last resource, including available community, State Plan, or other resources by the individual's Support Coordinator or Intensive Support Coordinator.

3702.4.2. State Plan non-coverage of a particular item or items as evidenced by:

3702.4.2.1. Medicaid denial letter; or

3702.4.2.2. Documentation of coverage exclusion by citation to Durable Medical Equipment Manual, Orthotic and Prosthetic Services Manual, Vision Care Manual, or Children's Intervention Service Manual

3702.4.3. If applicable, evidence that AT goods/services are not covered under private insurance or other healthcare funding:

3702.4.3.1. Documented phone calls to AT vendors to determine coverage;

3702.4.3.2. Notice of non-coverage of AT goods/services in a current schedule of benefits for a private insurance policy or other healthcare funding; or

3702.4.3.3. Denial letter from private insurance or other healthcare funding

3702.4.4. Verification of AT service delivery, including date, location, specific supplies, and services provided.

3702.4.5. Documentation of associated administration costs for AT service delivery that delineates line-item sources of costs;

3702.4.6. Provider will supply at least two (2) estimates of any AT device with cost in excess of $300.00

3702.4.7. A sole source letter attesting to the unique aspects of the item is required when a provider is sole source for a particular item. This documentation shall be maintained in the individual's record.

3702.4.8. A fee of $25 is allowed for the provision of administrative services for each individual ISP year

3702.5. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards: Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract Standards, DBHDD Core Requirements for All Providers and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF,

JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation) or certification by the DBHDD (see Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP, Chapter 603).

3702.6. Transfer of Assistive Technology with Transition to New Provider: AT billed for an individual must transfer with the individual when the individual transitions to a new waiver provider (e.g., AT purchases of devices in the individual's possession acquired for the individual during the time receiving services). This transfer of AT includes all AT equipment/devised in possession as well as all AT billed for the individual but not yet provided to or used by the individual.

3703. Licensure

Individual and agency Assistive Technology providers must hold the applicable Georgia business license as required by the local, city or county government in which the services are provided.

3704. Special Eligibility Conditions Section

The need for assistive technology must be identified in the Individual Service Plan. Recommendations of AT (both service and good) of $300 or more must be approved by a Georgia physician, Georgia Licensed Occupational Therapist, Georgia Licensed Speech Therapist, Georgia Licensed Audiologist, Georgia License Physical Therapist, RESNA ATP (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Assistive Technology Professional), or other qualified professional whose signature indicates approval.
AT requests estimated at less than $300 (total for both service and good) must be identified in the Individual Service Plan and need will be determine by the SC/ISC. AT requests estimated at $300 and above must have an assessed need and be approved by the DBHDD Clinical Reviewer in the review of the ISP and related documentation provided.

3705. Prior Approval Section

3705.1. For AT items over $300, the individual receives assessment and order from a qualified provider (as indicated above) for AT equipment and/or AT service(s). For AT items under $300, the Support Coordinator determines the need.

3705.2. The Support Coordination agency will attempt to procure all covered items through a DME vendor and any other available healthcare coverage sources – including, but not limited to private insurance, Medicare, and/or State Plan Medicaid.

3705.3. If all other funding sources have been exhausted and COMP is payor of last resort, the ISP team will follow procedures for adding a new service as set forth in DBHDD policy found here: Viewing Service Changes via the Individual Service Plan and Requests for Clinical Review for NOW and COMP Waiver Participants, 02-444 (policystat.com)

3705.4. If the DME vendor is unable to submit a prior authorization or obtain a denial because the medically necessary item is not a State Plan covered item, the provider will maintain in the individual's record a copy of the DME Policy Manual Section (902, 903, 904, or 905) that substantiates the

item as “non-covered.” This documentation will be accepted in lieu of the formal denial for the supplies. With this documentation, the item can be purchased through AT waiver funds.

3705.5. AT services must be authorized prior to service delivery applicable DBHDD Field Office agency at least annually in conjunction with the Individual Service Plan development and with any ISP version changes.

3705.6. If an AT item is requested which does not appear on the approved AT reimbursable items list, DBHDD will consider the item, based on assessed need and cost, on a case-by-case basis.

3706. Covered Services Section

3706.1. Reimbursable AT Goods are listed in 3709 of this Chapter

3706.2. Assistive Technology services and supports include the following:

3706.2.1. Consultation and assessment to identify and address the Individual’s needs as specified in the Individual Service Plan and/or other supporting documentation. Consultation & Assessment must be conducted by qualified individual or agency services provider as specified (in section 3702 above) - where no other therapy assessment is available/ appropriate.

3706.2.2. AT Demonstration- Individual and small group exploration of devices to increase awareness and knowledge of what is available. AT demonstration must be provided by either a qualified individual or agency services provider as specified in section 3702 above or qualified agency goods provider as specified in section 3702 above.

3706.2.3. Individual consultations to support device trials and assist in appropriate device selection. Individual consultations must be provided by qualified individual or agency services provider as specified (in section 3702 above)

3706.2.4. Individual and small group training on a specific device to support proper use. Small group training must be provided by either qualified individual or agency services provider as specified (above or qualified agency goods provider as specified

3706.2.5. Education and training for the Individual and family, guardian, and/or provider staff to aid the Individual in the use of the assistive technology Education and training must be provided by either qualified individual or agency services provider as specified (above or qualified agency goods provider as specified in section 3702 above

3706.2.6. Maintenance and repair of the assistive technology. Maintenance and repair must be provided by a qualified agency goods provider as specified in section 3702above.

3706.2.7. One-time Implementation training per order if needed and not provided by the vendor as part of delivery and installation. Additional therapy-related training should be recommended by the Doctor/ evaluator and have its own code.

3707. Non-Covered Services Section

3707.1. Items covered under the Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Orthotics and Prosthetics, and Hearing Services programs and other Medicaid non-waiver programs.

3707.2. Items that have been denied through the DME and other programs for lack of medical necessity.

3707.3. Massage equipment and exercise equipment

3707.4. Equipment and devices considered experimental.

3707.5. Off-the-shelf, non-customized cell phones and tablets that are purchased for standard use unrelated to the individual's disability; and that are not intended to maintain or improve functional capabilities of waiver members with disabilities by augmenting strengths and providing an alternative mode of performing a task

3707.6. Ancillary supplies for the proper functioning of non-approved devices or equipment.

3707.7. Equipment/devices for education and related services by children for whom the Department of Education has primary responsibility (i.e., private schools, ABA in school, home-schooling, tutors).

3707.8. Stereos, radios, televisions, and MP3 players.

3707.9. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

3707.10. Services otherwise provided through the COMP or the Medicaid State Plan, including additional units or costs beyond the maximum allowable for any COMP or Medicaid State Plan service.

3707.11. AT training that is already covered in the delivery/ installation of the product by the vendor.

3707.12. Replacement or repair of AT goods under current manufacturer or extended warranty.

3707.13. Educational services otherwise available through a program funded under 20 USC Chapter 3, section 1400 of the Individuals Education Act (IDEA), including private school tuition, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) in schools, school supplies, tutors, and homeschooling activities and supplies

3708. Basis for Reimbursement

3708.1. Reimbursement Rate Reimbursement rate for Assistive Technology (AT) is individual specific up to the annual maximum. The reimbursement rates for all services are found in Appendix A. (Rev 07/2024)

3709. List of Reimbursable AT Goods

3709.1. Reimbursable AT Goods include the following based on the assessed need of the individual as specified in the approved ISP:

Ablenet JellyBean Twist; Ablenet Super Talker, Acrylic Mirror Sheet, Adapted Keyboard with TouchPad, Adaptive Cutting Board, Adaptive Scissors, Amazon Echo, Amazon Echo Dot, Amazon Echo Show, Bar Magnifier, Beams 723, Big Blue Switch, Big Mack, Blood Pressure Monitor, Boil Alert, Button Pusher, Double Keypad Door Lock, Freedom Wand, Furniture Risers, Go Talk 32, Go Talk 9+, Google Home, Google Home Mini, Gooseneck Mount with	Clamps & Adapter, GoTalk 32 Carry Stand, GoTalk 9 Carry Stand, Hickies Laces, Jellybean Twist, Jumbo Dry Erase Calendar , Liftware Level Starter Kit, Little Mack, Little Spill Drinking Cup, Long Handle Loofa, LumaWarm Heated Toilet Seat, MedELert, Medical Stepping Stool w/ railing, Med-ID USB Necklace/ Bracelet, modular hose, modular hose & phone holder, Modular Hose with Podium Mount, Modular Mounts and tray, One Handed Cutting Board, OT Vest, Penfriend2,	Plexiglass Eye-gaze Board, PocketTalk, PocketDresser, PowerLink 4, QuickTalker FT12, Reacher, Reizen RL-350 Braille Labeler, Ring Video Doorbell, Rocking T-Knife, SatinShave Razor, Seven Message Take n' Talk Go! Board, Stander Bed Rail, SuperTalker Progressive Communicator, Talking Pocket Wallet, Toto Washlet (Bidet), WatchMinder 3, Pocket Talker Ultra, ZoomText Large Print Keyboard.

3709.2. Reimbursable AT Goods that must be specified in the approved ISP:

3"x3" Icon Holder Kit, Adult Bib, Anti-Scald Device, Automatic Pill Dispenser, Automatic Soap Dispenser, Automatic Toothpaste Dispenser, Bump dots, Button Aid, Button Hook, Clarity P300 Picture Phone, Clear Choice 2 Shower Dispenser, Clever Tongs, Colgate Electric Toothbrush, Cut Resistant Gloves, Digital Timer, Dignity Mug,, Divided Plate w/ Suction, Dycem Non-Slip Placemat, Epic ID, Ergonomic Bath Sponge, EZ PZ Happy Bowl, Fidget Balls, Fidget	Cube, Flipper Big Button Remote, Foam Grip Tubes, Freedom Dessert Bowl, LiveFine Automatic Pill Dispenser & Reminder, Long Arm Oven Mitt, No Tie Shoelaces, Norco Featherlite Reacher, Nosey Cups, Oasis Space Pill Reminder Box, One Handed Canister Set, Picture Care Phone, Pill box, Pocket-sized Communication Book, Potty Protector Shield, Reminder Rosie, Scoop Plate with Suction, Sensor Soap Dispenser, Shower Caddy, Shower Clock,	Shower Decals, Signature Guide, Slant Board, Snap Front Bra, Socks with Grips, SpeaksVolumz Cup, Swivel Spoon, Talking Photo Album, Talking Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm, Tile Mate, Time Timer Plus, Toilet Safety Frame, Toothpaste Dispenser, Trio Shower Dispenser, Universal Cuff, Universal Cup Holder, Visual Recipes Cookbook, monitored medical alert system, seizure alarm.

Chapter 3800: Specific Program Requirements for Community Residential Alternative (CRA)-Intensive Scope of Services

3801. General Description of Community Residential Alternative- Intensive Services

Community Residential Alternative (CRA) services are targeted for individuals who require formal support 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. CRA services provide a range of interventions with a particular focus on training and support in one or more of the following areas: eating and drinking, toileting, personal grooming and health care, dressing, communication, interpersonal relationships, mobility, home management, and use of leisure time. CRA services are individually planned and tailored to meet the specific needs of the individual and to accommodate fluctuations in his or her needs for various supports in the areas of functional, healthcare or behavioral services. CRA services are delivered according to level of need which corresponds to rate categories which reflect the fact that individuals with more significant needs require more intensive supports. Levels of need, expectations for providers based on level of need, and rate categories are described in greater detail below.

CRA-Intensive services provide residential supports that are integrated in, and support full access of individual participation in, the greater community. CRA-Intensive provides training in life and leisure skills, personal care, and community integration as specifically detailed in the person-centered plan.
CRA-Intensive services are designed to assist individuals for whom other, less intensive supports are unable to meet their needs. Each person must have privacy in his/her sleeping or living unit, including lockable doors, with only the appropriate staff having keys to doors, as needed. People sharing units have a choice of roommate in that setting. Further, people have the freedom to furnish and decorate their sleeping or living units within the parameters of the lease or other agreement. Providers must ensure privacy and dignity in accordance with section 618 of the Statewide Transition Plan Manual.

Waiver participants receiving CRA-Intensive services live in small group settings of three people or fewer. Community-based homes may include environmental modifications to address safety-related considerations (e.g. safety glass in windows, affixed furniture, industrial strength plumbing and fixtures, reinforced sheetrock, durable furniture, and fenced yards).

CRA-Intensive services are provided by highly trained staff who follow specialized behavior support plans focused on increasing individuals' ability to define their own day, make choices, communicate their needs and wants, and receive training for activities of daily living (including basic skills up to employment skills). Providers of CRA-Intensive must have licensed staff available to provide 24-hour on-call coverage to respond to any behavioral crisis that occurs.

CRA-Intensive services may not be provided to persons living in their own or family homes or in any residence in which Community Living Support Services are provided to a participant, including any family-owned licensed personal care home, licensed community living arrangement, or host home.

3802. Special Provider Requirements of Participation

DD Service Agencies must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

3802.1. Designated Agency Director - Position qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701. Duties of the Agency Director include, but are not limited to:

3802.1.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

3802.1.2. Manages the use of agency funds; iii. Ensures the development and updating of required policies of the agency;

3802.1.3. Manages the employment of staff and professional contracts for the agency;

3802.1.4. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence;

Submits a monthly programmatic report for each individual receiving CRA-Intensive to DBHDD within 15 calendar days of the following calendar month. The CRA-Intensive Monthly Programmatic Report (MPR) can be found at the DBHDD Provider Toolkit located on the DBHDD website https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/

3802.2. Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) – The provider must have at least one Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) who meets the qualifications found in Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers at http://dbhdd.org/files/Provider-Manual-DD.pdf. An Agency Director who meets the qualifications of a DDP may serve in both roles.

3802.3. Direct Care Staff

3802.3.1. Qualifications and Orientation -- Direct Care Staff must:

3802.3.1.1. Be 18 years or older;

3802.3.1.2. Have a high school diploma or equivalent (General Educational Development or GED) or have a minimum score of 75 on the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (STOFHLA) or Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (TOFHLA).

3802.3.1.3. Meet the requirements in COMP Part II Chapter 900, section 905 if transporting individuals.

3802.3.1.4. Be provided with a basic orientation prior to direct contact with individuals and

demonstrate competence in:

3802.3.1.4.1. The purpose and scope of the service to be delivered, including related policies; and

3802.3.1.4.2. Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken; and

3802.3.1.4.3. Rights and responsibilities of individuals including but not limited to requirements for recognizing suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any individual and reporting it

3802.3.1.4.3.1. to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;

3802.3.1.4.3.2. within the organization;

3802.3.1.4.3.3. iii, to appropriate regulatory or licensing agencies; and

3802.3.1.4.3.4. to law enforcement agencies.

3802.3.2. Duties of Direct Care Staff -- Duties of the Direct Care Staff include, but are not limited to:

3802.3.2.1. Providing individual-specific assistance and

training in activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, grooming, other personal hygiene, feeding, toileting, transferring, and other similar tasks;

3802.3.2.2. Accompanying individuals and facilitating participation in visits for medical care, therapies, personal shopping, recreation and other community activities; Training or assistance in household care, such as meal preparation, clothes laundering, bed-making, housecleaning, shopping, simple home repair, yard care, and other similar tasks;

3802.3.2.3. Assisting with therapeutic exercises, supervising self-administration of medication and performing health maintenance activities;

3802.3.2.4. Implementing positive behavioral support plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors.

3802.3.3. BCLS and First Aid Requirement for Direct Care Staff -- At least one Direct Care Staff trained in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) and first aid must be on duty at all times on each shift.

3802.4. Other Staff -- All other staff (including contract staff and consultants) must be:

3802.4.1. Properly trained or credentialed in their professional field as applicable.

3802.4.2. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individuals as required.

3802.4.3. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

Any employee or volunteer who has direct care, treatment, or custodial responsibilities for individuals served by the agency much have national criminal records check (NCIC) documentation pursuant to DBHDD Policy 04-104 and all policy outlined in Part I Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids.

3802.5. Specialty Staff Requirement - CRA-Intensive providers must employ all staff as described above and additionally:

3802.5.1. At all times, there is present in each home a minimum of one on-duty Direct Care Staff who holds a registered behavior technician (RBT) certification or has at least one (1) year of experience providing direct services to individuals with developmental disabilities and complex behavior needs. Direct Care Staff must complete at least 20 hours of face-to-face competency-based training instruction in applied behavior analysis by a designated behavior analyst or professional meeting qualifications in ABA instruction. A certificate of proof of training is required in the following content areas:

3802.5.1.1. Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis - basics and functions of behavior;

3802.5.1.2. Providing positive consequences, planning ignoring or extinction, and redirection-reinforcement strategies; and

3802.5.1.3. data collection, recording, and documentation.

3802.5.2. Each home's programming must include comprehensive behavior services with direct access to a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) 24 hours per day.

3802.5.3. Each home's programming must include access to 24-hour Skilled Nursing Services in accordance with the individual's clinically assessed need and in the event of a medical emergency.

3802.6. Staffing Levels - CRA-Intensive staffing levels must be in accordance with the CRA-Intensive Rate Modeling as established by agreement with DBHDD. Rates will be customized to the individual based on approved staffing levels. All variable costs must be accounted for in the Monthly Programmatic Report as required in section 3802.5 of this chapter. Additional information on these requirements can be found within the CRA-Intensive rate model (pages 19-20 https://www.healthmanagement.com/wp-content/uploads/NOW-and-COMP-Rate-Models_2024-07-01-Final-Rate-Models_wSpecCRA.pdf).

3802.7. Agency Policies and Procedures -- Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of the agency and which follow the Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities found at Viewing Provider Manuals for Community Developmental Disability Providers, 02-1201 (policystat.com).

3802.8. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards -- Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community

Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation- see Part II Chapter 606 Policies and Procedures for COMP) or certification by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental- see Policy 02-703. Licensure and Delivery Settings- CRA services can only be delivered when proper service licensing is in place.

3802.9. Provider Site Operation Pre-requisite – In order to be authorized for CRA-Intensive services, the provider must demonstrate that (i) the provider is currently operating at least two existing CLA sites serving one to four individuals currently receiving standard CRA waiver services at each site, and will continue to operate at least two such standard CRA CLA sites after the commencement of services at the CRA-Intensive site; or (ii) the provider is an operating Community Service Board in Georgia.

3802.10. Licensure -- Each CRA-Intensive home must be licensed as a Community Living Arrangement (CLA). For more information regarding CLA licensure see: https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/be-connected/licensure-information

3802.11. Individual Site Enrollment -- Each individual CRA-Intensive site must be individually enrolled as a distinct site with its own Medicaid number.

3802.12. Relocation of Individual -- An individual must not be relocated to another residential services site without documented prior approval from the DBHDD Field Office a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the move except in documented and regionally approved emergencies, and with subsequent adjustments to the ISP and Prior Authorization (PA). The relocation of an individual after a disaster damages or destroys a CRA-Intensive site must be according to the disaster plan for that CRA-Intensive site. The disaster plan for that site must be available for review by DBHDD and DCH.

3802.13. Actions Due to Critical Health and Safety Risks -- If a CRA-Intensive service site is determined by DBHDD to have a critical health and safety risk, DBHDD may take immediate action to remove the individual(s).

3802.14. Requirements for Employees Residing at Employer's CRA-Intensive Site -- The provider agency must abide by the Fair Labor Standards Act requirements for sleep time when employees reside at the employer's CRA site.

3802.15. Requirements to Accompany Individuals to Emergency Rooms or Hospitals – CRA-Intensive provider agency staff must accompany individuals who are transported to an emergency room or hospital.

3803. Special Eligibility Conditions

3803.1. CRA-Intensive services are provided to individuals who require 24-hour support.

3803.2. The need for CRA-Intensive services is determined through DBHDD assessment(s) (e.g. Social Work, Behavior, and/or Nursing Assessment) and described in the Intake and Evaluation Team approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

3803.3. Supports are designed to be commensurate with each waiver individual's level of need as determined by the Health Risk Screening Tool and the Supports Intensity Scale along with other specialized assessments or evaluations.

3803.4. All admissions and reauthorizations for CRA-Intensive must be approved by DBHDD. CRA-Intensive services are designed to support individuals who meet both the Location Profile and the Individual Profile criteria below:

3803.4.1. Location Profile

The individual meets at least one of the following criteria:

3803.4.1.1. The individual is currently in an out-of-state placement and there is a lack of another appropriate in-state placement;

3803.4.1.2. The individual is being discharged from a DBHDD-funded and managed crisis home;

3803.4.1.3. The individual is referred from the Georgia Crisis Services and Diagnostic Center; or

3803.4.1.4. The individual is currently receiving Specialized Transitional CRA or Behavior Focused CRA services.

3803.4.2. Individual Profile

In addition to the individual meeting at least one of the four above location profile criteria, the individual's safety and/or functioning have been significantly compromised beyond any safety/functional challenges that are typically present in a standard CRA, as evidenced by at least five (5) of the seven (7) following criteria:

3803.4.2.1. Significant impulsivity, high acuity maladaptive behavior, and/or physical aggression that has resulted in emergency room visits, hospitalization and/or DBHDD funded out-of-state placement;

3803.4.2.2. At least two incidences of law enforcement interaction within the past 12 months;

3803.4.2.3. An incident of crisis home placement in the

past 12 months;

3803.4.2.4. Admission to a Crisis Stabilization Unit, the Crisis Services and Diagnostic Center, or a psychiatric hold of longer than 24 hours within the past 12 months;

3803.4.2.5. At least one episode of a severe maladaptive behavior that includes property destruction, self-injury, or injury to others that resulted in an interaction with the mobile crisis team that resulted in a recommendation other than on-site stabilization in the past 12 months;

3803.4.2.6. A history and pattern of documented placement disruption or provider denial due to behavioral acuity in the past 12 months;

3803.4.2.7. The individual requires crisis behavior intervention or an increased level of monitoring by specialized staff as assessed by a clinical review by a DBHDD Regional Behavior Analyst and DBHDD Regional Social Worker.

3804. Prior Approval

CRA-Intensive services must be authorized prior to service delivery by the applicable DBHDD Field Office and at least annually in conjunction with reevaluation of need, development of the Individual Service Plan, and with any ISP version changes.

3805. Covered Services

Reimbursable CRA-Intensive services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

3805.1. Assistance with, and/or training in, activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, grooming, other personal hygiene, feeding, toileting, transferring and other similar tasks.

3805.2. Accompanying individuals and facilitating their participation in visits for medical care, therapies, personal shopping, recreation and other community activities. This category includes staff to serve as interpreters and communicators and transportation costs to provide the service.

3805.3. Training or assistance in household care, such as meal preparation, clothes laundering, bed-making, housecleaning, shopping, simple home repair, yard care and other similar tasks.

3805.4. Assisting with therapeutic exercises, supervising self-administration of

medication, basic first aid, arranging and transporting individuals to medical appointments, documenting an individual's food and/or liquid intake or output, reminding individuals to take medication, and performing other medically related services including health maintenance activities.

3805.5. Training and support in the areas of social, emotional, physical and special intellectual development. This category includes mobility training, life skills training, self-awareness, and positive behavior support to reduce inappropriate or maladaptive behaviors.

3805.6. Transportation is included in the cost of CRA-Intensive services and is thus required to and from waiver and other services specified in the Individual Service Plan. Georgia's Non-Emergency Transportation System may be used for medical appointment transportation with proper supervision and assistance by the CRA provider.

3805.7. Development and implementation of behavioral support plans to reduce inappropriate behavior and to acquire alternative skills and behaviors.

3806. Non-Covered Services

CRA-Intensive services do not include the following:

3806.1. Services delivered in the individual's own or family home or in any residence in which Community Living Support services are provided to an individual including any family-owned licensed personal care home, licensed community living arrangement, or host home/life sharing arrangement.

3806.2. Services in a facility/home that does not meet licensed capacity approved by Georgia Healthcare Facilities Regulation.

3806.3. Reimbursement over 344 days/year based on the waiver individual's annual ISP dates, except that the annual limit will reset if an individual changes provider agencies during their plan year.

3806.4. Any absence from the home that requires an overnight stay including hospitalization, overnight camp, family visits or vacations.

3806.5. An extended overnight visit with family or friends that exceeds 12 hours in a 24-hour period.

3806.6. Medically related services that are not allowable by State law, rules, and regulations unless fully compliant with Proxy Caregiving Rules.

3806.7. Restrictive behavioral interventions, including chemical or mechanical restraints and seclusion, prohibited by state law or regulations.

3806.8. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 900.

3806.9. Payment is not made for the cost of room and board, including the cost of building maintenance, upkeep and improvement.

3806.10. The following COMP services cannot be authorized when an individual is authorized for CRA-Intensive:

3806.10.1. Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services;

3806.10.2. Vehicle Adaptation Services;

3806.10.3. Transportation Services;

3806.10.4. Behavior Support Services (Level I and Level II);

3806.10.5. Skilling Nursing Services (RN and LPN);

3806.10.6. Additional Staffing Services (when delivered in the CRA-Intensive site); and

3806.10.7. Community Living Support Services.

3806.11. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

3807. Documentation

Documentation of CRA-Intensive services must include the following elements in the record of each individual:

3807.1. Daily logs with beginning and ending time of day of all staff and contractors delivering services in the home to include all of the following, as applicable:

3807.1.1. Shift or PRN direct support staff;

3807.1.2. Supervisors or residential managers;

3807.1.3. Agency employed or contracted nurse consultants;

3807.1.4. Any approved Additional Staff;

3807.1.5. Professional staff such as therapists, nurses, home health care professionals, behavioral support consultants or service providers.

3807.2. Activity provided by the agency's nurse in response to request or ad hoc.

3807.3. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided.

3807.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title/credential (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or

her signature.

3807.5. Supervisory/management note documenting supervision, training and administrative support of the direct support personnel.

3807.6. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

3807.7. Coordination and/or transportation to other waiver services or community-based services, leisure activities, social events or other activities supporting community inclusion.

3807.8. Any overnight absences from the home including reason for absence.

3808. Basis for Reimbursement

To ensure coordination of supports, the CRA-Intensive rates incorporate the costs of both paraprofessional and clinical supports. Payment rates will be determined on an individual-by-individual basis based on the type and amount of staff support needed by each individual. See Section 3806.10, above, for a list of services that may not be authorized or reimbursed for individuals receiving CRA-Intensive services.
Reimbursement rates for CRA-Intensive services are found in Appendix A.

3808.1. The unit of service for CRA-Intensive services is daily.

3808.2. Transportation is included in the rate for CRA-Intensive services, but this does not prevent the use of Georgia's Non-emergency Transportation Service for medical appointments.

3808.3. Rates for CRA-Intensive include an absence factor that adds a premium to the daily rate (based on a 365-day year). Thus, rates represent annualized annual reimbursement over 344 billing days.

3808.4. The annual maximum number of CRA-Intensive daily units is 344 per year.

Payment to the provider is not made for the cost of room and board, including the cost of building maintenance, upkeep and improvement.

3809. Participant-Direction Options

CRA-Intensive Services cannot be participant-directed.

Chapter 3900: Specific Program Requirements for Community Residential Alternative (CRA) – Specialized Scope of Services

3901. General Description of Community Residential Alternative

All Community Residential Alternative (CRA) services are targeted for individuals who require formal support 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. CRA services provide a range of interventions with a particular focus on training and support in one or more of the following areas: eating and drinking, toileting, personal grooming and health care, dressing, communication, interpersonal relationships, mobility, home management, and use of leisure time. CRA services are individually planned and tailored to meet the specific needs of the individual and to accommodate fluctuations in his or her needs for various supports in the areas of functional, healthcare or behavioral services. CRA services are delivered according to level of need which correspond to rate categories which reflect the fact that individuals with more significant needs require more intensive supports. Levels of need, expectations for providers based on level of need, and rate categories are described in greater detail below.

All CRA services include assistance with and/or training in activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, grooming, other personal hygiene, feeding, toileting, transferring, and other similar tasks. CRA services may also include training and/or assistance in household care, such as meal preparation, clothes laundering, bed-making, housecleaning, simple home repair, yard care, and other similar tasks designed to increase waiver individuals' independence in self-care skills.

CRA-Specialized services provide residential supports that are integrated in, and support full access of individual participation in, the greater community. CRA-Specialized services assist individuals to gain skills and supports in the areas of personal care, supervision, support, and personal development. Specialized CRA provides training in life and leisure skills, personal care and community integration as specifically detailed in the person-centered plan. Each person must have privacy in his/her sleeping or living unit, including lockable doors, with only the appropriate staff having keys to doors, as needed. People sharing units have a choice of roommates in that setting. Further, people have the freedom to furnish and decorate their sleeping or living units within the parameters of lease or other agreement. Providers must ensure privacy and dignity in accordance with section 618 of the Statewide Transition Plan Manual.

CRA-Specialized services are designed to be short-term placements, typically lasting three to six months. The service includes assessment of individual support needs to assist in transition planning. There are two categories of Specialized CRA services:

3901.1. Behavior-Focused CRA provides short-term placement for individuals with challenging behaviors until they respond to service intervention and can be transitioned to another setting.

3901.2. Specialized Transitional CRA provides short-term placement for individuals being discharged from another setting such as an out-of-state placement or crisis home, and who have demonstrated significant aggression, self-abuse, and/or dangerous destructive behavior

CRA-Specialized services are provided in small group settings of four people or fewer. CRA-Specialized community-based homes must include environmental modifications to address safety-related considerations (examples could include safety glass in windows, affixed furniture,

industrial strength plumbing and fixtures, reinforced sheetrock, durable furniture, and fenced yards, among other modifications). DBHDD will advise the CRA-Specialized provider of specific requirements for each proposed site, and will conduct a site visit to confirm the inclusion of all required environmental modifications. The required modifications must be included before individuals can be served at the site.

CRA-Specialized services provide a full array of interventions and supports to develop stability while maintaining quality of life, with the intent of developing an individual's ability to return to living situations requiring lower levels of staffing and paid support. The homes must be staffed at a level to allow individuals with challenging behaviors to access the community safely or to stay at home when they choose. All CRA-Specialized homes must take into consideration the specific needs and desires of the individuals and be tailored in a way to respond to issues related to diagnoses, age, gender, mobility, and medical condition.

The homes operate with a minimum of one direct support staff on duty at all times on each shift who holds a registered behavior technician (RBT) certification or meets the specialized training requirements defined below. Programming includes comprehensive behavior services with access to a board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA) 24 hours per day. Additionally, the individuals will have access to 24-hour nursing services as per clinically assessed need.

Specialized CRA services may not be provided to persons living in their own or family homes or in any residence in which Community Living Support services are provided to a participant. CRA Specialized Services can only occur in a CLA that serves no more than four (4) individuals at a time.

3902. Special Provider Requirements of Participation

DD Service Agencies must have staffing that meets the following requirements:

3902.1. Designated Agency Director- Position qualifications can be found in DBHDD Policy Recruitment and Application to Become a Provider of Developmental Disability Services, 02-701. Duties of the Agency Director include, but are not limited to:

3902.1.1. Oversees the day-to-day operation of the agency;

3902.1.2. Manages the use of agency funds;

3902.1.3. Ensures the development and updating of required policies of the agency;

3902.1.4. Manages the employment of staff and professional contracts for the agency;

3902.1.5. Designates another agency staff member to oversee the agency, in his or her absence;

3902.1.6. Submits a monthly programmatic report for each individual receiving CRA-Specialized to DBHDD within 15 calendar days of the following calendar month. The CRA-Specialized Monthly Programmatic Report (MPR) can be

found at the DBHDD Provider Toolkit located on the DBHDD website https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/

3902.2. Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) – The provider must have at least one Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) who meets the qualifications found in Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers at Viewing Provider Manuals for Community Developmental Disability Providers, 02-1201 An agency director who meets the qualifications of a DDP may serve in both roles.

3902.3. Direct Care Staff

3902.3.1. Qualifications and Orientation – Direct Care Staff must:

3902.3.1.1. Be 18 years or older.

3902.3.1.2. Have a high school diploma or equivalent (General Educational Development or GED) or have a minimum score of 75 on the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (STOFHLA) or Test of Functional Health Literacy for Adults (TOFHLA).

3902.3.1.3. Meet the requirements in COMP Part II Chapter 900, section 905 if transporting individuals.

3902.3.1.4. Be provided with a basic orientation prior to direct contact with individuals and demonstrate competence in:

3902.3.1.4.1. The purpose and scope of the service to be delivered, including related policies; and

3902.3.1.4.2. Confidentiality of individual information, both written and spoken; and

3902.3.1.4.3. Rights and responsibilities of individuals including but not limited to requirements for recognizing and reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of any individual:

3902.3.1.4.3.1. To the

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;

3902.3.1.4.3.2. Within the organization;

3902.3.1.4.3.3. To appropriate regulatory or licensing agencies; and

3902.3.1.4.3.4. To law enforcement agencies.

3902.3.2. Duties of the Direct Care Staff – Duties of the Direct Care Staff include, but are not limited to:

3902.3.2.1. Providing individual-specific assistance and training in activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, grooming, other personal hygiene, feeding, toileting, transferring, and other similar tasks;

3902.3.2.2. Accompanying individuals and facilitating participation in visits for medical care, therapies, personal shopping, recreation and other community activities; Training or assistance in household care, such as meal preparation, clothes laundering, bed-making, housecleaning, shopping, simple home repair, yard care, and other similar tasks;

3902.3.2.3. Assisting with therapeutic exercises, supervising self-administration of medication and performing health maintenance activities; and

3902.3.2.4. Implementing positive behavioral support

plans of individuals to reduce inappropriate and/or maladaptive behaviors and to acquire alternative adaptive skills and behaviors.

3902.3.3. BCLS and First Aid Requirement for Direct Care Staff -- At least one staff trained in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) and first aid is on duty at all times on each shift.

3902.4. Other Staff -- All other staff (including contract staff and consultants) must be:

3902.4.1. Properly trained or credentialed in their professional field as applicable.

3902.4.2. Present in numbers to provide services and supports to individuals as required.

3902.4.3. Experienced and competent in the services and support they provide.

Any employee or volunteer who has direct care, treatment, or custodial responsibilities for individuals served by the agency must have national criminal records check (NCIC) documentation pursuant to DBHDD Policy 04-104 and all policy outlined in Part I Policies and Procedures for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids.

3902.5. Specialty Staff Requirement – CRA-Specialized providers must employ all staff as described above and additionally:

3902.5.1. At all times, there is present in each home a minimum of one on-duty Direct Care Staff who holds a registered behavior technician (RBT) certification requirement or has at least 1 year of experience providing direct services to individuals with developmental disabilities and complex behavior needs. Direct Care Staff must complete at least 20 hours of face-to-face competency-based training instruction in applied behavior analysis by a designated behavior analyst or professional meeting qualifications in ABA instruction. A certificate of proof of training is required in the following content areas:

3902.5.1.1. Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis-basics and functions of behavior,

3902.5.1.2. Providing positive consequences, planning ignoring or extinction, and redirection-reinforcement strategies; and

3902.5.1.3. Data collection, recording, and documentation.

3902.5.2. Each home's programming must include comprehensive behavior services with direct access to a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) 24 hours per day.

3902.5.3. Each home's programming must include access to 24-hour Skilled Nursing Services in accordance with the individual's clinically assessed need and in the event of a medical emergency.

3902.6. Staffing Levels -- CRA-Specialized staffing levels must be in accordance with the CRA-Specialized Transitional and CRA- Behavior Focused Rate Modeling as established by agreement with DBHDD. All variable costs must be accounted for in the Monthly Programmatic Report as required in section 3902.1.6 of this chapter. Additional information on these requirements can be found within the CRA-Specialized Transitional and CRA-Behavior Focused Rate models (https://www.healthmanagement.com/wp-content/uploads/NOW-and-COMP-Rate-Models_2024-07-01-Final-Rate-Models_wSpecCRA.pdf).

3902.7. Agency Policies and Procedures -- Each provider agency must develop written policies and procedures to govern the operations of the agency and which follow the Provider Manual for Community Developmental Disability Providers for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities found Viewing Provider Manuals for Community Developmental Disability Providers, 02-1201 (policystat.com).

3902.8. DBHDD Contract/LOA and DBHDD Community Service Standards -- Providers must adhere to DBHDD Contract/LOA, DBHDD Community Service Standards and all other applicable DBHDD Standards, including accreditation by a national organization (CARF, JCAHO, The Council, Council on Accreditation- see Part II Chapter 606 Policies and Procedures for COMP) or certification by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental- see Policy 02-703. Licensure and Delivery Settings- CRA services can only be delivered when proper service licensing is in place.

3902.9. Provider Site Operation Pre-requisite – In order to be authorized for CRA-Specialized services, the provider must demonstrate that (i) the provider is currently operating at least two existing CLA sites serving one to four individuals currently receiving standard CRA waiver services at each site, and will continue to operate at least two such standard CRA CLA sites after the commencement of services at the CRA-Intensive site; or (ii) the provider is an operating Community Service Board in Georgia.

3902.10. Licensure - CRA-Specialized homes must be licensed as a Community Living Arrangement (CLA). For more information regarding CLA licensure see: https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/be-connected/licensure-information

3902.11. Individual Site Enrollment - Each individual CRA-Specialized site must be individually enrolled as a distinct site with its own Medicaid number.

3902.12. Relocation of Individual - An individual must not be relocated to another residential services site without documented prior approval from the DBHDD Field Office a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the move except in documented and regionally approved emergencies, and with subsequent adjustments to the ISP and Prior Authorization (PA). The relocation of an individual after a disaster damages or destroys a CRA-Specialized site must be according to the disaster plan for that CRA-Specialized site. The disaster plan for that site must be available for review by DBHDD and DCH.

3902.13. Actions Due to Critical Health and Safety Risks: If a CRA-Specialized service site is determined by DBHDD to have a critical health and safety risk, DBHDD may take immediate action to remove the individual(s).

3902.14. Requirements for Employees Residing at Employer's CRA-Specialized Site: The provider agency must abide by the Fair Labor Standards Act requirements for sleep time when employees reside at the employer's CRA site.

3902.15. Requirements to Accompany Individuals to Emergency Rooms or Hospitals: CRA-Specialized provider agency staff must accompany individuals who are transported to an emergency room or hospital.

3903. Special Eligibility Conditions

3903.1. CRA-Specialized services are provided to individuals who require 24-hour support.

3903.2. The need for CRA-Specialized services is determined through DBHDD assessment(s) (e.g. Social Work, Behavioral and/or Nursing Assessment) and described in the Intake and Evaluation Team approved Individual Service Plan (ISP).

3903.3. Supports are designed commensurate with each waiver individual's level of need as determined by the Health Risk Screening Tool and the Supports Intensity Scale along with other specialized assessments or evaluations.

3903.4. Behavior-Focused CRA

All admissions and reauthorizations for Behavior-Focused CRA must be approved by DBHDD. Behavior-Focused CRA services are designed to be short-term support. Behavior-Focused CRA services are designed to support individuals who meet both the Location Profile and the Individual Profile criteria below:

3903.4.1. Location Profile - Individuals must meet a minimum of one (1) of the following criteria:

3903.4.1.1. The individual is currently in an out of state placement and there is a lack of another appropriate in-state placement.

3903.4.1.2. The individual is currently being held at a jail without a committed community provider.

3903.4.1.3. The individual is currently being housed in a community hospital or Emergency Department with documented placement needs.

3903.4.1.4. The individual is aging out of Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) custody with need for immediate placement with documented evidence of multiple community placement denials.

3903.4.1.5. The individual had frequent interactions with community hospital emergency departments, law enforcement, jails, and/or crisis stabilization units with need for placement and behavioral stabilization or assessment within the last twelve months.

3903.4.1.6. The individual is over 18 with a diagnosis of autism and there is a lack of another appropriate placement and a documented need for behavior stabilization.

3903.4.2. Individual Profile - In addition to the individual meeting at least one of the location profile criteria listed above, the individual's safety and/or functioning has been significantly compromised beyond any safety/functional challenges that are typically present in a standard CRA as evidenced by at least one (1) of the following criteria:

3903.4.2.1. Significant impulsivity, high acuity maladaptive behavior, and/or physical aggression that has resulted in emergency room visits, hospitalization, and/or DBHDD funded out-of-state placement and a documented medical need requiring nursing services in the last 12 months.

3903.4.2.2. At least one incidence of law enforcement interaction within the past 12 months;

3903.4.2.3. Admission to a Crisis Stabilization Unit, the Crisis Services and Diagnostic Center, or a psychiatric hold of longer than 24 hours within the past 12 months;

3903.4.2.4. At least one episode of a severe

maladaptive behavior that includes property destruction, self-injury, or injury to others that resulted in an interaction with the mobile crisis team which resulted in a recommendation other than on-site stabilization in the past twelve (12) months; or

3903.4.2.5. A history and pattern minimum of six documented placement disruption or provider denial due to medical or behavioral acuity in the past 12 months.

3903.4.3. Specialized Transition CRA

All admissions and reauthorizations for Specialized Transition CRA must be approved by DBHDD. Specialized Transition CRA services are designed to be short-term support for individuals with a documented need for additional nursing support that make them vulnerable to residing in a crisis home or Behavior-Focused CRA. Some examples include having issues with mobility, need for tube feeding, dialysis, sliding scale insulin, etc. The individual must have a documented need for extensive support with completing ADLs or require a handicapped accessibility home. Additionally, the individual must meet both the Location Profile and the Individual Profile criteria below:

3903.4.3.1. Location Profile - Individuals must meet a minimum of one (1) of the following criteria:

3903.4.3.1.1. The individual is currently in an out-of-state placement and there is a lack of another appropriate in-state placement.

3903.4.3.1.2. The individual is currently being held at a jail, has a history of or current significant medical and/or behavioral support needs, and does not have a committed community provider.

The individual is currently being housed in a community hospital or Emergency Department with documented placement needs.

3903.4.3.2. Individual Profile - In addition to the individual meeting at least one of the

Location Profile criteria listed above, the individual's safety and/or functioning has been significantly compromised beyond any safety/functional challenges that are typically present in standard CRA services as evidenced by at least one (1) of the following criteria:

3903.4.3.2.1. Significant impulsivity, high acuity maladaptive behavior, and/or physical aggression that has resulted in emergency room visits, hospitalization and/or DBHDD funded out of state placement

3903.4.3.2.2. At least one incidence of law enforcement interaction within the past 12 months;

3903.4.3.2.3. Admission to a Crisis Stabilization Unit, the Crisis Services and Diagnostic Center, or a psychiatric hold of longer than 24 hours within the past 12 months;

3903.4.3.2.4. At least one episode of a severe maladaptive behavior that includes property destruction, self-injury or injury to others that resulted in an interaction with the mobile crisis team that results in a recommendation other than on-site stabilization in the past 12 months;

3903.4.3.2.5. A history and pattern of a minimum of six documented placement disruption or provider denial due to behavioral acuity in the past 12 months.

3904. Prior Approval

CRA-Specialized services must be authorized prior to service delivery by DBHDD at least annually in conjunction with reevaluation of need, development of the Individual Service Plan, and with any ISP version changes.

3905. Covered Services

Reimbursable CRA-Specialized services include the following based on the assessed need of the individual and as specified in the approved ISP:

3905.1. Assistance with, and/or training in, activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, grooming, other personal hygiene, feeding, toileting, transferring and other similar tasks.

3905.2. Accompanying individuals and facilitating their participation in visits for medical care, therapies, personal shopping, recreation and other community activities. This category includes staff to serve as interpreters and communicators and transportation costs to provide the service.

3905.3. Training or assistance in household care, such as meal preparation, clothes laundering, bed-making, housecleaning, shopping, simple home repair, yard care and other similar tasks.

3905.4. Assisting with therapeutic exercises, supervising self-administration of medication, basic first aid, arranging and transporting individuals to medical appointments, documenting an individual's food and/or liquid intake or output, reminding individuals to take medication, and performing other medically related services including health maintenance activities.

3905.5. Training and support in the areas of social, emotional, physical and special intellectual development. This category includes mobility training, life skills training, self-awareness, and positive behavior support to reduce inappropriate or maladaptive behaviors.

3905.6. Transportation is included in the cost of CRA-Specialized services and is thus required to and from waiver and other services specified in the Individual Service Plan. Georgia's Non-Emergency Transportation System may be used for medical appointment transportation with proper supervision and assistance by the CRA provider.

3905.7. Development and implementation of behavioral support plans to reduce inappropriate behavior and to acquire alternative skills and behaviors.

3906. Non-Covered Services

CRA-Specialized services do not include the following:

3906.1. Services delivered in the individual's own or family home or in any residence in which Community Living Support services are provided to an individual including any family-owned licensed personal care home,

licensed community living arrangement, or host home/life sharing arrangement.

3906.2. Services in a facility/home that does not meet licensed capacity approved by Georgia Healthcare Facilities Regulation.

3906.3. Medically related services that are not allowable by State law, rules, and regulations unless fully compliant with Proxy Caregiving Rules.

3906.4. Restrictive behavioral interventions, including chemical or mechanical restraints and seclusion, prohibited by state law or regulations.

3906.5. Payment is not made, directly or indirectly, to members of the individual's immediate family, except as approved as indicated in Part II Policies and Procedures for COMP and NOW, Chapter 900.

3906.6. Payment is not made for the cost of room and board, including the cost of building maintenance, upkeep and improvement

3906.7. The following COMP services cannot be authorized when an individual is authorized for CRA-Specialized:

3906.7.1. Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services;

3906.7.2. Vehicle Adaptation Services;

3906.7.3. Transportation Services;

3906.7.4. Behavior Support Services (Level I and Level II);

3906.7.5. Skilling Nursing Services (RN and LPN);

3906.7.6. Additional Staffing Services (when delivered in the CRA-Intensive site); and

3906.7.7. Community Living Support Services.

3906.8. Payment is not made for those goods and services covered by the State Medicaid Plan except where an individual's need exceeds State Plan coverage limits and exceptions to the coverage limits are not available.

3907. Documentation

Documentation of CRA-Specialized services must include the following elements in the record of each individual:

3907.1. Daily logs with beginning and ending time of day of all staff and contractors delivering services in the home to include all of the following, as applicable:

3907.1.1. Shift or PRN direct support staff;

3907.1.2. Supervisors or residential managers;

3907.1.3. Agency employed or contracted nurse consultants;

3907.1.4. Any approved Additional Staff;

3907.1.5. Professional staff such as therapists, nurses, home health care professionals, behavioral support consultants or service providers

3907.2. Activity provided by the agency's nurse in response to request or ad hoc.

3907.3. Specific activity, training, or assistance provided;

3907.4. Verification of service delivery, including first and last name and title (if applicable) of the person providing the service and his or her signature;

3907.5. Supervisory/management note documenting supervision, training and administrative support of the direct support personnel;

3907.6. Progress towards the individual's independence as documented in the individual's ISP.

3907.7. Coordination and/or transportation to other waiver services or community-based services, leisure activities, social events or other activities supporting community inclusion.

3907.8. Any overnight absences from the home including reason for absence.

3908. Basis for Reimbursement

To ensure coordination of supports, the CRA-Specialized rates incorporate the costs of both paraprofessional and clinical supports. Payment rates will be determined on an individual-by-individual basis based on the type and amount of staff support needed by each individual.

Reimbursement rates for CRA services are found in Appendix A.

Behavior-Focused and Specialized Transitional CRA services are reimbursed based on a fixed monthly rate (one unit). If an individual is in the home for less than 15 calendar days in a month, the provider will bill one-half of a unit.

Payment to the provider is not made for the cost of room and board, including the cost of building maintenance, upkeep and improvement.

3909. Participant-Direction Options

CRA services-Specialized cannot be participant directed.

Appendix A
Reimbursement Rates for COMP Services

The reimbursement rates outlined below are the maximum amount that Medicaid may reimburse providers, unless an enhanced Support Service rate has been authorized by the DBHDD Field Office and the Office of Developmental Disabilities (see Part II, COMP Policies and Procedures, Appendix H for information on Enhanced Services rate approval). The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities assigns the individual provider rates. (Rev 01/2018 Rev 04/2020)

Rates for extended plan services follow rates for the same or similar services found in the Medicaid State Plan.

Note: All adult therapy codes are subject to NCCI edits which cut back the allowable reimbursement to that noted below. CMS developed the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) in 1997 which is included in the claims edits and cannot be overridden by the Georgia Department of Community Health.

A. Adult Occupational Therapy: (Rev 04/2018)

Procedure Name	Code	Modifier	Modifier	Modifier	Limit	Rate
Adult OT Evaluation – Low Complexity	97165				1 eval per year	$71.98
Adult OT Evaluation – Low Complexity – self directed	97165	UC			1 eval per year	$71.98
Adult OT Evaluation – Moderate Complexity	97166				1 eval per year	$71.98
Adult OT Evaluation – Moderate Complexity – self directed	97166	UC			1 eval per year	$71.98
Adult OT Evaluation – High Complexity	97167				1 eval per year	$71.98
Adult OT Evaluation – High Complexity – self directed	97167	UC			1 eval per year	$71.98
Adult OT Re-Evaluation	97168				1 unit per 180 days	$47.55
Adult OT Re-Evaluation – self directed	97168	UC			1 unit per 180 days	$47.55
Adult OT Therapeutic Services	97530	GO			6 units per day	$30.23
Adult OT Therapeutic Services (self -directed)	97530	GO	UC		6 units per day	$30.23
Adult OT Sensory Integrative Techniques	97533	GO			4 units per day	$30.23
Adult OT Sensory Integrative Techniques (self-directed)	97533	GO	UC		4 units per day	$30.23
Adult Orthotic and Prosthetic Fitting and	97760	GO			6 units per day	$30.23

Training						
Adult Orthotic and Prosthetic Fitting and Training (self-directed)	97760	GO	UC		6 units per day	$30.23
Prosthetic Training	97761	GO			6 units per day	$30.23
Prosthetic Training (self-directed)	97761	GO	UC		6 units per day	$30.23
Orthotic and Prosthetic Check Out	97763	GO			6 units per day	$30.23
Orthotic and Prosthetic Check Out (self-directed)	97763	GO	UC		6 units per day	$30.23
Occupational Therapy	97530	GO	U1		6 units per day	$30.23
Occupational Therapy – Self-Directed	97530	GO	U1	UC	6 units per day	$30.23

Only 97530-GO and 97530-GO-UC may be authorized after January 1, 2025. (Rev 07/ 2024)

Annual Limit for all combined Adult Therapies = $10,800.00.

B. Adult Physical Therapy: (Rev 04/2018)

Procedure Name	**Code**	**Modifier**	**Modifier**	**Limit**	**Rate**
Adult PT Evaluation – Low Complexity	97161	GP		1 eval per year	$74.27
Adult PT Evaluation – Low Complexity – self directed	97161	GP	UC	1 eval per year	$74.27
Adult PT Evaluation – Moderate Complexity	97162	GP		1 eval per year	$74.27
Adult PT Evaluation – Moderate Complexity – self directed	97162	GP	UC	1 eval per year	$74.27
Adult PT Evaluation – High Complexity	97163	GP		1 eval per year	$74.27
Adult PT Evaluation – High Complexity - self directed	97163	GP	UC	1 eval per year	$74.27
Adult PT Re-evaluation	97164	GP		1 unit per 180 days	$50.49
Adult PT Re-evaluation – self directed	97164	GP	UC	1 unit per 180 days	$50.49
Adult PT Therapeutic Procedure	97110			6 units per day	$30.23
Adult PT Therapeutic Procedure - self-directed	97110		UC	6 units per day	$30.23
Neuro-Muscular Re-Education	97112	GO		4 units per day	$30.23

Neuro-Muscular Re-Education (self-directed)	97112	GO	UC	4 units per day	$30.23
Physical Therapy	97110	U1		6 units per day	$30.23
Physical Therapy – Self-Directed	97110	U1	UC	6 units per day	$30.23

Only 97110-U1 and 97110-U1-UC may be authorized after January 1, 2025.

Annual Limit for all combined Adult Therapies = $10,800.00. (Rev 04/2018)

C. Adult Speech and Language Therapy:

Procedure Name	Code	Modifier	Modifier	Limit	Rate
Adult Speech Language Evaluation	92523			1 unit per 180 days	$175.44
Adult Speech Language Evaluation (self-directed)	92523		UC	1 unit per 180 days	$175.44
Adult Speech Language Therapy	92507	GN		1 session per day	$66.97
Adult Speech Language Therapy (self-directed)	92507	GN	UC	1 session per day	$66.97
Adult Speech Generating Device Evaluation	92607			2 evals per year	$117.03
Adult Speech Generating Device Evaluation (self-directed)	92607		UC	2 evals per year	$117.03
Adult Speech-Generating Device Therapy	92609			1 session per day	$58.64
Adult Speech-Generating Device Therapy (self-directed)	92609		UC	1 session per day	$58.64
Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy	92526			1 session per day	$47.83
Adult Swallowing/Feeding Therapy (self-directed)	92526		UC	1 session per day	$47.83
Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation	92610			1 unit per 180 day	$125.89
Adult Swallowing/Feeding Evaluation (self-directed)	92610		UC	1 unit per 180 day	$125.89

Note: All reference to 2 evaluations/year indicates 1 evaluation/180 days.

Annual Maximum for all combined Adult Therapies = $10,800.00.

D. Additional Staffing (Rev 01/2018 Rev 10/2019)

Service	Unit	Procedure Code	Rate
Additional Staffing, Basic	15 min.	T2017-U6 Note: code change retroactive for CLS and CRA to 3/1/17 Note: code change retroactive for CAG effective 9/1/19.	$8.00
Additional Staffing, Enhanced	15 min.	T2017-U7 Note: code change retroactive for CLS and CRA to 3/1/17 Note: code change retroactive for CAG effective 9/1/19	$9.00

Used for billing additional staffing approved by DBHDD.
Not available through participant-direction.

The enhanced rate may only be accessed for individuals with specific needs and by staff with specific qualifications, as outlined below, unless otherwise specifically approved by DBHDD due to a DBHDD documented clinical extenuating circumstance. All requests for the enhanced staffing rate are subject to approval by DBHDD.

As of April 1, 2020, see below requirements for the Additional Staffing Enhanced Rate:

i. Individual Profile- the individual must have the following:

1. "Yes" to questions 2, 3, or 4 on the individual's current SIS-A supplemental questions, or
2. Exceptional Behavior Support Needs score of 7 or higher on the individual's current SIS-A

AND

ii. Staff Profile – all staff billing at an enhanced rate must evidence the following:

1. Current Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT); and/or
2. Current Certification for Direct Support Professionals through National Association for Dually Diagnosed (NADD Certification); and/or
3. Current Positive Behavior Support Training Curriculum 3rd edition Completion (American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
4. Current Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)

E. Assistive Technology (Rev 01/2024)

Procedure Name	Code	Modifier	Modifier	Limit	Rate
Assistive Technology Assessment	T2029	UD		6 units/year (15-minute)	$38.66
Assistive Technology Goods and Services	T2029	UD	U1	1 unit	$1.00

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i. Annual maximum is $2,000 (AT Assessment and AT Goods & Services combined) with no lifetime maximum.

ii. AT Assessment is limited to 1 assessment per year. 1 assessment = 6 units.

iii. AT Goods and Services annual maximum number of units is 2,000. (Rev 07/2024)

iv. Reimbursement rate for AT is individual specific to the cost of the device up to the annual maximum.

F. Behavioral Supports Services:

Behavioral Supports Services Level 2 (H2019-UB) (Rev 07/2015 Rev 01/2021 Rev 01/2021 Rev 07/2024
Unit = 15 minutes
Maximum rate per unit- $36.68

Behavioral Supports Services Level 1 (H2019-UA) (Rev 07/2015 Rev 01/2021)

Unit = 15 minutes

Maximum rate per unit = $24.36 (Rev 07/2024)

G. Community Living Support Services:

Service	Unit of Service	Procedure Code	Rate
Community Living Support (CLS) - Basic	15-minutes	T2025-U5	$9.98
CLS – Basic, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15-minutes	T2025-U5-UD	$11.14
CLS – Basic self-directed	1 Unit	T2025-U5-UC	$1.00
CLS – Basic co-employer	15-minutes	T2025-U5-UA	$9.98
Community Living Support - Extended	15-minutes	T2025-U4	$9.28
CLS – Extended, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15-minutes	T2025-U4-UD	$10.40
CLS- Extended self-directed	1 Unit	T2025-U4-UC	$1.00

CLS – Extended co-employer	15-minutes	T2025-U4-UA	$9.28
Community Living Support, 2 Members - Basic	15-minutes	T2025-U5-UN	$5.49
CLS, 2 Members - Basic, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15-minutes	T2025-U5-UN-UD	$6.13
CLS Basic – 2 Members self-directed	1 Unit	T2025-U5-UN-UC	$1.00
CLS Basic – 2 Members co-employer	15-minutes	T2025-U5-UN-UA	$5.49
Community Living Support, 2 Members - Extended	15-minutes	T2025-U4-UN	$5.10
CLS, 2 Members - Extended, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15-minutes	T2025-U4-UN-UD	$5.72
CLS Extended, 2 Members self-directed	1 Unit	T2025-U4-UN-UC	$1.00
CLS Extended, 2 Members co-employer	15-minutes	T2025-U4-UN-UA	$5.10
Community Living Support, 3 Members - Basic	15-minute Unit	T2025-U5-UP	$3.99
CLS, 3 Members - Basic, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15-minutes	T2025-U5-UP-UD	$4.46
CLS Basic – 3 Members self-directed	1 Unit	T2025-U5-UP-UC	$1.00
CLS Basic – 3 Members co-employer	15-minutes	T2025-U5-UP-UA	$3.99
Community Living Support, 3 Members - Extended	15-minutes	T2025-U4-UP	$3.71
CLS, 3 Members - Extended, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15-minutes	T2025-U4-UP-UD	$4.16
CLS Extended – 3 Members self-directed	1 Unit	T2025-U4-UP-UC	$1.00
CLS Extended – 3 Members co-employer	15-minutes	T2025-U4-UP-UA	$3.71
Personal Assistance Retainer	15-minutes	T2025-U5-CG	$9.28
Personal Assistance Retainer, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15-minutes	T2025-U5-CG-UD	$10.40
Personal Assistance Retainer self-directed	1 Unit	T2025-U5-CG-UC	$1.00
Personal Assistance Retainer co-employer	15-minutes	T2025-U5-CG-UA	$9.28

Total annual amount of all fifteen-minute CLS services billed cannot exceed $83,520.00 annually. (Wef 11.11.2023)

Self-Directed
Community Living Support: 1 unit = $1.00
Annual limit is as authorized in the individual budget up to an annual maximum of $83,520..00 (Wef 11.11.2023)

H. Community Access Services:

Service	Unit	Procedure Code	Rate
Community Access-Group, Facility	15 minutes	T2025-HQ-U1-U6	$3.65
Community Access-Group, Facility, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2025-HQ-U1-U6-UD	$3.97
Community Access-Group, Community, Category 1	15 minutes	T2025-HQ-U1-U7	$3.65
Community Access-Group, Community, Category 1, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2025- HQ-U1-U7-UD	$3.81
Community Access-Group, Community, Category 2	15 minutes	T2025- HQ-U2-U7	$4.18
Community Access-Group, Community, Category 2, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2025- HQ-U2-U7-UD	$4.54
Community Access-Group, Community, Category 3	15 minutes	T2025- HQ-U3-U7	$5.23
Community Access-Group, Community, Category 3, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2025- HQ-U3-U7-UD	$5.71
Community Access-Group, Community, Category 4	15 minutes	T2025- HQ-U4-U7	$7.42
Community Access-Group, Community, Category 4, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2025- HQ-U4-U7-UD	$8.13
Community Access-Individual	15 minutes	T2025-UB	$10.55
Community Access-Individual, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2025-UB-UD	$11.74
Community Access-Group, Facility, Self-Directed	1 Unit	T2025-HQ-UC	$1.00
Community Access-Group, Community – Category 1, Self-Directed	1 Unit	T2025-HQ-U1-U7-UC	$1.00
Community Access-Group, Community – Category 2, Self-Directed	1 Unit	T2025-HQ-U2-U7-UC	$1.00
Community Access-Group, Community – Category 3, Self-Directed	1 Unit	T2025-HQ-U3-U7-UC	$1.00
Community Access-Group, Community – Category 4, Self-Directed	1 Unit	T2025-HQ-U4-U7-UC	$1.00
Community Access-Individual, Self-Directed	1 Unit	T2025-UB-UC	$1.00
Community Access-Group, Facility – Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2025-HQ-U1-U6-UA	$3.65
Community Access-Group, Community – Category 1, Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2025-HQ-U1-U7-UA	$3.65
Community Access-Group, Community – Category 2, Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2025-HQ-U2-U7-UA	$4.18
Community Access-Group, Community – Category 3, Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2025-HQ-U3-U7-UA	$5.23

Community Access-Group, Community – Category 4, Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2025-HQ-U4-U7-UA	$7.42
Community Access-Individual, Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2025-UB-UA	$10.55

Community Access-Group (including Co-Employer) = 6,000 units
Community Access-Group, Self-Directed = $21,900.00
Community Access-Individual (including Co-Employer) = $15,192.00
Community Access-Individual, Self-Directed = $15,192.00
The annual maximum for community access group is in combination for the annual maximum for prevocational services

I. Community Residential Alternative

Capacity	Category	Unit of Service	Procedure Code	Rate
Community Residential Alternative-Group Home				
5-Person Residence	N/A	1 Day	T2033-U5-UR	$186.94
4-Person Residence	Category 1 (Level 1	1 Day	T2033-U1-UQ	$248.35
4-Person Residence	Category 1 (Level 1), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1 Day	T2033-U1-UQ-UD	$268.70
4-Person Residence	Category 2 (Level 2)	1 Day	T2033-U2-UQ	$292.42
4-Person Residence	Category 2 (Level 2), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1 Day	T2033-U2-UQ-UD	$319.28
4-Person Residence	Category 3 (Level 3, 4)	1 Day	T2033-U3-UQ	$341.79
4-Person Residence	Category 3 (Level 3, 4), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1 Day	T2033-U3-UQ-UD	$375.93
4-Person Residence	Category 4 (Level 5, 6, 7)	1 Day	T2033-U4-UQ	$447.57
4-Person Residence	Category 4 (Level 5, 6, 7), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1 Day	T2033-U4-UQ-UD	$497.31
3-Person Residence	Category 1 (Level 1)	1 Day	T2033-U1-UP	$294.16
3-Person Residence	Category 1 (Level 1), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1 Day	T2033-U1-UP	$316.92
3-Person Residence	Category 2 (Level 2)	1 Day	T2033-U2-UP	$323.26
3-Person Residence	Category 2 (Level 2), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1 Day	T2033-U2-UP	$350.80
3-Person Residence	Category 3 (Level 3, 4)	1 Day	T2033-U3-UP	$382.32

3-Person Residence	Category 3 (Level 3, 4), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1 Day	T2033-U3-UP	$418.07
3-Person Residence	Category 4 (Level 5, 6, 7)	1 Day	T2033-U4-UP	$507.05
3-Person Residence	Category 4 (Level 5, 6, 7), Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1 Day	T2033-U4-UP	$561.21
	Specialized Transitional	Month	T2033-XX	$37,121.50
	Behavior Focused	Month	T2033-XX	$34,424.63
	Intensive	Day	T2033-XX	As approved
Community Residential Alternative-Host Home				
1-2 Person Residence	Category 1 (Level 1, 2, 3, 4)	1 Day	T2017-U1	$163.33
1-2 Person Residence	Category 2 (Level 5, 6, 7)	1 Day	T2017-U2	$220.11

Not available through participant-direction.

Reimbursement rates are annualized at 344 days per year. Claims reimbursement is limited to 344 days annually. The annual limit will be reset in the event that an individual moves to a new provider agency within the individual's ISP year and the previous provider has exhausted their 344 day cap. (Wef 11.11.2023)

J. Environmental Accessibility Adaptation:

Environmental Accessibility Adaptation (S5165)
Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Self-Directed (S5165-UC)
Maximum of $15,000 per individual every five years (Rev 07/2024)
The reimbursement rate is the lower of three price quotes or $15,000.

K. Financial Support Services:

Financial Support Services (T2040-UC)
Unit = 1 month
Maximum annual number of units = 12(Wef 11.11.2023)
Maximum rate per participant = $101.75 per month

L. Individual Directed Goods and Services: (Rev 07/2014)

Individual Directed Goods and Services (T2025-U7/UC)
Maximum Annual number of units = 1606

Limits: 1 unit = $1.00
$1,606.00 annual maximum

M. Interpreter Services:

Interpreter Services (T1013)
Unit=15 minutes
Maximum Annual number of units=245/ 61.25 hours
Maximum rate per unit= $26.76
Annual maximum= $6,556.20

N. Skilled Nursing Services:

RN – nursing services (T1002-U1)
Unit = 15 minutes Maximum rate per unit = $36.68

LPN – nursing services (T1003-U1)
Unit = 15 minutes
Maximum rate per unit = $24.36 (Rev 04/2018 Wef 11.11.2023)

O. Adult Nutrition Services:

Service	Procedure Code	Modifier	Limits	Rate
Nutrition Evaluation	97802	U1	1 visit	$28.09
Nutrition Follow Up	97803	U1	8 units/month (15-minute)	$23.94

*Nutrition Evaluation is limited to 1 visit per year. 1 visit = 3 units.

Unit = 15-minute

$2.700.00 total for any Adult Nutrition Service procedure codes

Note: All adult therapy codes are subject to NCCI edits which cut back the allowable reimbursement to that noted below. CMS developed the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) in 1997 which is included in the claims edits and cannot be overridden by the Georgia Department of Community Health.

P. Prevocational Services: (Rev 04/ 2015)

Service	Unit	Procedure Code	Rate
Prevocational Services	15 minutes	T2015	$3.33
Prevocational Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2015-UD	$3.63

Annual Limit = 6,000 units
The annual maximum for prevocational services is in combination for the annual maximum for community access group.

Q. Respite Services

Service	Unit	Procedure Code	Rate
Respite-15-Minutes 1 Member In Home	15 min	S5150	$9.38
Respite-15-Minutes 1 Member, self-directed In Home	1 unit	S5150-UC	$1.00
Respite-15-Minutes 1 Member, co-employer In Home	15 min	S5150-UA	$9.38
Respite-1 Member In Home, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 min	S5150-UD	$10.50
Respite-15-Minutes 2 Member In Home	15 min	S5150-UN	$5.16
Respite-15-Minutes 2 Member, self-directed In Home	1 unit	S5150-UN-UC	$1.00
Respite-15-Minutes 2 Member, co-employer In Home	15 min	S5150-UN-UA	$5.16
Respite-2 Members In Home, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 min	S5150-UN-UD	$5.77
Respite-15-Minutes 3 Member In Home	15 min	S5150-UP	$3.75
Respite-15-Minutes 3 Member, self-directed In Home	1 unit	S5150-UP-UC	$1.00
Respite-15-Minutes 3 Member, co-employer In Home	15 min	S5150-UP-UA	$3.75
Respite-3 Members In Home, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 min	S5150-UP-UD	$4.20
Respite-Daily Category 1 Out of Home	Daily	S5151-UJ	$184.72
Respite-Daily Category 1, self-directed Out of Home	Daily	S5151-UJ-UC	$184.72
Respite-Daily Category 1, co-employer Out of Home	Daily	S5151-UJ-UA	$184.72
Respite-Daily Category 2 Out of Home	Daily	S5151-U1-UJ	$248.94
Respite-Daily Category 2, self-directed Out of Home	Daily	S5151-U1-UJ-UC	$248.94
Respite-Daily	Daily	S5151-U1-UJ-UA	

Category 2, co-employer Out of Home			$248.94
Respite- 15 Minutes, Out of Home Category 1	15 min	S5150 U1	$9.38
Respite- 15 Minutes, Out of Home Category 1 – self directed	1 unit	S5150 U1-UC	$1.00
Respite- 15 Minutes, Out of Home Category 2	15 min	S5150 U3	$9.38
Respite- 15 Minutes, Out of Home Category 2 – self directed	1 unit	S5150 U3-UC	$1.00

Respite services delivered during 7.5 hours (30 units in one day) must be billed as a daily unit.

Annual limits for all Respite services in combination: Individuals in Level 1 through 4 $5,541.60. Individuals in Levels 5 through 7 $7,468.20

R. Specialized Medical Equipment:

Specialized Medical Equipment (T2029)
Specialized Medical Equipment Self-Directed (T2029-UC)
1 unit = $1.00
Annual maximum = $5,569.00

The amount of funds per equipment purchase is the standard Medicaid reimbursement rate for the equipment or, in the absence of a standard Medicaid rate, the lower of three price quotes. The annual maximum number $5,569.00 unless there is approval to exceed the annual maximum due to assessed exceptional needs of the individual.

S. Specialized Medical Supplies:

Specialized Medical Supplies (T2028)
Specialized Medical Supplies Self-Directed (T2028-UC)
1 unit = $1.00
Annual maximum = $4,069.00

The annual maximum number of units is $4,069 unless there is approval to exceed annual maximum units due to assessed exceptional needs of the individual.

T. Supported Employment Services:

Service	Unit	Procedure Code	Rate
Supported Employment-Group, 1:8-1:10	15 minutes	T2019-HQ-U1	$2.47
Supported Employment-Group, 1:8-1:10, Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2019-HQ-UA-U1	$2.47
Supported Employment-Group, 1:8-1:10, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2019-HQ-UD-U1	$2.63
Supported Employment-Group,	15 minutes	T2019-HQ-U2	$3.38

1:5-1:7			
Supported Employment-Group, 1:5-1:7, Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2019- HQ-UA-U2	$3.38
Supported Employment-Group, 1:5-1:7, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2019- HQ-UD-U2	$3.63
Supported Employment-Group, 1:3-1:4	15 minutes	T2019-HQ-U3	$5.37
Supported Employment-Group, 1:3-1:4, Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2019- HQ-UA-U3	$5.37
Supported Employment-Group, 1:3-1:4, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2019- HQ-UD-U3	$5.78
Supported Employment-Group, 1:2	15 minutes	T2019-HQ-U4	$8.95
Supported Employment-Group, 1:2, Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2019- HQ-UA-U4	$8.95
Supported Employment-Group, 1:2, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2019- HQ-UD-U4	$9.67
Supported Employment-Group, 1:2, Self-Directed	1 unit	T2019-HQ-UC-U4	$1.00
Supported Employment-Group, 1:3-1:4, Self-Directed	1 unit	T2019- HQ-UC-U3	$1.00
Supported Employment-Group, 1:5-1:7, Self-Directed	1 unit	T2019- HQ-UC-U2	$1.00
Supported Employment-Group, 1:8-1:10, Self-Directed	1 unit	T2019- HQ-UC-U1	$1.00
Supported Employment-Individual, Job Developer	15 minutes	T2019-UB-U1	$17.92
Supported Employment-Individual, Job Developer, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2019-UB-UD-U1	$19.26
Supported Employment-Individual, Job Developer, Co-Employer	15 minutes	T2019-UB-UA-U1	$17.92
Supported Employment-Individual, Job Developer, Self-Directed	1 unit	T2019-UB-UC-U1	$1.00
Supported Employment-Individual, Job Coach	15 minutes	T2019-UB-U2	$15.06
Supported Employment-Individual, Job Coach, Deaf and Hard of Hearing	15 minutes	T2019-UB-UD-U2	$16.37
Supported Employment-Individual, Job Coach, Co-employer	15-minutes	T2019-UB-UA-U2	$15.06
Supported Employment-Individual, Job Coach, Self-Directed	1 unit	T2019-UB-UC-U2	$1.00

Annual Limit for Supported Employment Individual and Supported Employment Group combined = $21,686.40 (Rev 07 2019 Rev 07 2020)

U. Transportation Services: (Rev 07/2020)

Transportation Encounter/Trip (T2003-U1) (Rev 01/2021)

Transportation Encounter/Trip Self-Directed (T2003-UC)
Transportation Encounter/Trip Co-Employer (T2003-UA)
1 Unit = $1.00
Mileage Rates are established by the provider agency but must use a methodology of comparable transportation rates.

Transportation Commercial Carrier, Multi-Pass (T2004)
Transportation Commercial Carrier, Multi-Pass Self-Directed (T2004-UC)
Individual specific rate for local commercial carrier, multi-pass

Annual Maximum for Transportation Services = $2,995.

Self-Directed
Scheduled Encounter/Trip
1 unit = $1.00
Mileage Rates are established by the Vendor and/or the Representative but must use a methodology of comparable transportation rates.
Annual limit is authorized in the individual budget up to annual maximum for all self-directed Transportation services of $2,995.

Commercial Carrier/Multipass/Intermittent Trip
1 unit = $1.00
Annual limit is as authorized in the individual budget up to annual maximum for all self-directed Transportation Services of $2,995.

V. Vehicle Adaptation Services:

Vehicle Adaptation (T2039)
Vehicle Adaptation Self-Directed (T2039-UC)
1 unit = $1.00
Limit $15,000.00 every five years

Appendix B
Requirements for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Rate Enhancement

A. Overview

The Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program includes enhanced provider payments rates for services provided to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing (as determined through a Communications Assessment) by staff qualified in sign language or an alternative approved communication in accordance with the individual's Communication Assessment. The following services have enhanced rates:

i. Community Residential Alternative-Group Home

ii. Community Living Support

iii. Respite, 15-Minute

iv. Supported Employment-Individual

v. Supported Employment-Group

vi. Prevocational Services

vii. Community Access-Individual

viii. Community Access-Group

DBHDD's policy regarding accessibility for services for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing can be found under the DBHDD policy "Accessibility of Community Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services for Individuals Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 15-115."

B. Participant Eligibility

To qualify for the deaf and hard of hearing rate enhancement, the participant must meet both of the following criteria, as confirmed by a Communication Assessment performed by a Communication Specialist from DBHDD's Office of Deaf Services:

i. The participant must be deaf or hard of hearing.

1. Deaf" means having hearing that is totally impaired or hearing that is so seriously impaired as to prohibit the individual from understanding oral communications spoken in a normal conversational tone (see O.C.G.A. § 30-1-1). This can be a self-identified classification regardless of the severity of the hearing loss or mode of manual communication preferred.

2. "Hard of hearing" means having a hearing loss, whether permanent or fluctuating, which may be corrected by amplification or other assistive technology or means but which nevertheless presents challenges in understanding oral communications spoken in a normal conversational tone through hearing.

ii. The participant's preferred mode of communication must be American Sign Language (ASL) or words or gestures (sometimes referred to based on ASL.

Individuals who are believed to be deaf or hard of hearing must receive a Communications Assessment in accordance with DBHDD Policy "Accessibility of Community Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services for Individuals Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 15-115."

C. Provider and Staff Qualifications Requirements

To bill an enhanced deaf and hard of hearing rate, the service must be delivered by direct care staff who both meet the standard requirements for the service and demonstrate fluency in American Sign Language (ASL). To demonstrate fluency, staff must take the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) or its predecessor, the Signed Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI), when those interviews are administered by a person or agency approved by DBHDD for SLPI or SCPI administration. The level of fluency that needs to be demonstrated by an ASL-fluent staff is determined by the Communication Assessment and the Individual Service Plan (ISP) for the individual served by that staff member.

For programs with multiple staff who may support the individual, such as a Community Access-Group program or Community Residential Alternative-Group Home, an ASL-fluent staff must be available to the individual at all times that active supports are being provided, which does not include hours when the individual is asleep.

Appendix C
Procedures for Billing and Documenting Personal Assistance Retainer

A personal assistance retainer is a component of Community Living Support Services. The personal assistance allows continued payment for Community Living Support services while an individual is hospitalized or otherwise away from the home to prevent reassignment of or otherwise stabilize staff known to the individual. Staff may not provide services in a hospital or nursing home setting but are retained in order to ensure stability of staff upon the individual's return home. This retainer allows continued payment to personal caregivers under the waiver for up to thirty (30) days (per calendar year) for absences of individual from his or her home. (Rev 04/ 2016)

A. Personal Assistance Retainer Documentation:

Providers must document the following in the record of each individual for whom a personal assistance retainer is a component of Community Living Support Services: (Rev 01/2016)

i. Beginning and end date of absence.

ii. Reason for absence.

iii. Scheduled days and units per day for Community Living Support Services as specified in the ISP.

iv. Scheduled staff were not deployed to work at any other provider location, in the home of another individual, or in an institutional setting (hospital or nursing facility).

The Co-Employer agency of any individual/representative who opts for participant-direction through a Co-Employer Agency must document the personal assistance retainer as above. The individual/representative who opts for participant-direction through a Financial Support Services Provider must maintain copies of CLS Personal Assistance Retainer Timesheet for any claims of this retainer for Community Living Support Services.

B. Personal Assistance Retainer Allowances and Exclusions:

i. Personal Assistance Retainer Allowances

The personal assistance retainer allows continued payment to personal caregivers under the waiver for up to thirty (30) days per year for absences of the individual from his or her home, per calendar year.

1. Only for the scheduled days and amounts of Community Living Support services as indicated in the ISP (e.g., if an individual receives CLS services only on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for a total of 16 units per day, the personal assistance retainer may only be claimed for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for 16 units per day for any week for which the retainer provides continued payment). The provider must document specific days and units billed under the personal assistance retainer.

ii. Personal Assistance Retainer Exclusions

The following exclusions apply to the personal assistance retainer:

1. Payment will not made for Personal Assistance Retainer in excess of the pre-authorized amount for Community Living Supports as specified in the Individual Service Plan.

2. Payment of Personal Assistance retainer is not allowable for absences due to services that are reimbursable as other waiver and Medicaid State Plan services except for admissions to a general hospital or nursing facility as indicated below.

3. Payment of Personal Assistance retainer beyond allowable days indicated below.

C. Personal Assistance Retainer Billing:

Providers must submit claims as follows for the personal assistance retainer:

i. Claims During Hospital Stays

1. Providers submit claims for each admission to a general hospital or nursing facility, including ICF/ID and skilled nursing facilities; (Rev 04/ 2016)

2. Providers submit claims for only scheduled days and units as specified in the individual's Individual Service Plan;

3. Providers bill a separate line for each day claimed during the hospital stay;

4. Providers list place of service on the claim as follows:

(a) 31 for Skilled Nursing Facility

(b) 32 for Nursing Facility

(c) 54 for Intermediate Care Facility/MR

(d) 21 for Inpatient Hospital

(e) 99 for vacations and family/relative visits (Rev 04/ 2023)

Note: Providers may not submit reimbursement for services provided in a nursing facility, hospital or ICF/ID.

Note: For personal assistance retainer claims during hospital stays, the provider must bill a separate line for each day claimed during the hospital stay up to the allowable (30) days per calendar year for all absences of the individual from his or her home.

ii. Claims for Other Absences

1. Providers submit claims up to the allowable thirty (30) days per calendar year for all absences of the individual from his or her home, including hospital stays as in Section C.i. above and other absences of the individual from his or her home, such as vacations and family/relative visit, per calendar year; (Rev 04/2016)

2. Providers submit claims for only scheduled days and units (would have been provided except for the absence from the home) as specified in the Individual's Service Plan;

3. Providers may submit claims for other absences as standard (that is, in weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly spans)

Note: Providers are required to submit timesheets documentation of the vacations, hospitalizations and family visits to mellis@dch.ga.gov for review. (Rev 07/2023)

Note: Family hire caregivers are exempt from utilizing retainer payments when unavailable to render services to the member. (Rev 07/2023)