

UPDATE

MARCH 25th, 2020



FAMILY/CLIENT UPDATE

Family/Client Update:

As things continue to change daily with regard to the *Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19*, we are doing our best to get clear answers on how these things will affect the families we serve. Here is the latest information you should know:

- We will continue to do our visits with you virtually through video applications like Facetime, GoTo Meeting, Zoom, etc. through June, or until the end of this emergency, as directed by the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS).
- We understand that schools are now closed through the end of the school year and that many businesses are shutting down. This may result in an increased need for Personal Care hours and/or supervision hours. If your need has increased as a result of this emergency, please contact your Moms In Motion Service Facilitator. We will do our best to work with DMAS or your MCO to facilitate an increase as appropriate.
- Section 1135 Waiver Flexibilities have been activated. What does this mean to you? In general, it means that the state wants to try to keep people on Medicaid during this emergency. Some examples of ways this is being implemented are as follows:
 - During this emergency, people who forget to fill out their annual renewal paperwork for Medicaid will not immediately lose their eligibility.
 - People who are working through appeals will not have a limit on how long they'll keep Medicaid while going through this process. They will simply keep their Medicaid during this emergency.
 - There will be authorization forgiveness, waiving of

authorizations in certain cases, extending of authorizations, etc.

- The state is in the process of deciding whether to activate HCBS Appendix K. If activated, these changes would be more specific to the CCC+ and DD Waivers and would include things like (but not limited to):
 - A possible increase in Respite hours.
 - Temporarily allowing parents of minor children and spouses of people receiving services to be hired as paid attendants.
- Questions DMAS has answered for us are as follows:
 - The requirement to use at least one waiver service every 30 days in order to keep waiver services has been relaxed. So, if you are having a hard time getting attendants to come to your home, it is okay if it goes more than 30 days. Although you will not be at risk of losing your services during this emergency simply for lack of usage of hours, we are unclear on how long will be permitted. We will continue to seek clarification on this.
 - For those with Personal Care authorizations that end between March 12 and May 31, DMAS and the MCO's are putting automatic extensions for 60 days into effect. We will continue to work through and process our requests as necessary, but you may see a change to the end date in your Personal Care line in your Fiscal Agent portals for this reason. Please note: Your Moms In Motion Service Facilitators are checking this portal daily and you will be notified as usual when we have confirmed the authorization is in place.
- Things that DMAS is still working on are as follows:
 - They are considering extending the 40-hour work week for non-live-in attendants for those that have more than 40 hours/week of Personal Care hours and have an attendant willing to work.
 - They are trying to streamline the attendant hiring process in general and are looking into alternatives for notary, retroactive application, etc. during this emergency in order to reduce the time it takes to get someone hired.
- We have asked DMAS for guidance on the following topics and will update you as we get answers:
 - Temporary live-in status: For attendants that temporarily move into the home in order to better help individuals, we are looking for guidance on whether these attendants can be considered live-in and get that tax exemption during

- this emergency.
- If the state activates HCBS Appendix K and if they allow the hiring of parents of minor children or spouse of person receiving services:
 - What happens if the person being hired is currently the backup person? Will families need to identify a different backup plan?
 - What happens if the person being hired is currently the EOR or Primary Caregiver? Will families need to identify a different EOR/PCG?
 - What happens after this emergency? Will families be required to go back to existing regulations that state that parents of minor children and/or spouses of people receiving services cannot be paid attendants?

We recognize that the longer this emergency goes on, the more likelihood there is of mental health challenges. If you or your loved ones are experience these challenges, please reach out to your MCO Care Coordinator, CSB Support Coordinator, or Dept. of Social Services worker to be connected with services.

The health and well-being of our clients and their families, our team members, and our communities will remain our number one priority throughout this situation. For information about the Coronavirus and how to limit the spread of the virus, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control](#).

We recognize that as a result of this emergency, the unemployment rate in Virginia is climbing. As we strive to help more and more families across the state, we continue to have a need for new team members. Please visit our website for more information on the positions that are available: <https://momsinmotion.net/job-opportunities/>

As always, we appreciate the ability to serve you and your families with **Advocacy, Compassion, and Excellence**. We look forward to our continued partnership with you.

STAY INFORMED - STAY CONNECTED - STAY WITH US!



Moms In Motion/At Home Your Way is a Service Facilitation Provider
for Medicaid CCC+, CL, and FIS Waiver enrollees.

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