

# UPDATE

## APRIL 21, 2020



## IMPORTANT FAMILY/CLIENT UPDATE

### Family/Client Update:

As things continue to change with COVID-19, we are doing our best to get clear answers on how these things will affect the families we serve. Things you should know:

- We will continue to do our visits with you virtually through video applications like Facetime, GoTo Meeting, Zoom, etc. at least through June, or until the end of this emergency, as directed by the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS).
- In spite of schools being closed and many parents working from home now, DMAS and the MCO's will not automatically increase anyone's Personal Care and/or Supervision hours. They are also not changing the documentation required or the process by which your Service Facilitator requests an increase in these hours. That said, 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.

### NEW COVID UPDATES:

- The state has received approval from CMS to activate HCBS Appendix K. **To be clear, they intend to start this with an effective date that is not yet known to providers.** DMAS intends to put out a Medicaid Bulletin in the next day or two giving us more detail and giving us the official effective date for this change. What does Appendix K allow?
  - It temporarily allows parents of minor children and spouses of people receiving services to be hired as paid attendants.
  - Again, this is not yet in effect. Until we have the official

effective date from DMAS, no spouses of individuals receiving services or parents of minor children receiving services should be hired as paid attendants. We will send further communication on this in the next day or two once we get the official communication from DMAS.

- Here's what you need to understand:
  - A paid attendant cannot also be the Employer of Record.
    - If the parent who was the Employer of Record becomes the paid attendant, a new Employer of Record will need to be assigned. It is imperative that this be done through your Service Facilitator and NOT directly with the Fiscal Agent.
  - A paid attendant cannot also be the Unpaid Primary Caregiver. **Please read this part carefully!**
    - **If the previously Unpaid Primary Caregiver becomes the paid attendant, the individual receiving services will no longer qualify for Respite hours.** That is, there must be an Unpaid Primary Caregiver (PCG) in need of relief in order to qualify for Respite hours. So, if the PCG becomes a paid attendant, the individual will no longer meet that criteria unless there is another Unpaid Primary Caregiver (PCG) identified. If you have questions about your specific circumstances on this point, please contact your Moms In Motion Service Facilitator.
- Once this emergency is over and the Appendix K activation is removed, any spouse of an individual receiving services or any parent of a minor child who has become the paid attendant will no longer be able to be a paid attendant. DMAS confirmed today that the Fiscal Agents (CDCN, PPL, and Access\$) will automatically remove these attendants from their systems. For questions about this, please contact your Fiscal Agent directly.

## **OTHER NEWS:**

- The Department of Social Services (DSS) and Department of Health (DOH) are still doing CCC Plus Waiver (Long-Term Care) screenings virtually. If you know of anyone who needs these services, please direct them to call their local Department of Health (for those under 18) or their Department of Social Services (for those 18 and older) and request a Long-Term Care screening.
  - Moms In Motion has a CCC Plus Self Eligibility Tool on our website that you can use to determine whether or not you meet the level of criteria to get these services. <https://momsinmotion.net/commonwealth-coordinated-care-plus-eligibility-self-help-tool/>
  - Information about the application and screening process,

the application itself (in both English and Spanish), the necessary Appendix D, and the contact information for your local DSS can also be found on our website at: <https://momsinmotion.net/waivers/ccc-plus/>

- The Community Services Boards (CSBs) are also still doing screenings (virtually) for the DD Waivers (Community Living (CL) and Family & Individual Supports (FIS)). If you know of anyone in need of these services, please encourage them to contact their local Community Services Board and request a DD Waiver screening.
  - Information about the application and screening process and a link for finding your local Community Services Board (CSB) can be found on our website at: <https://momsinmotion.net/waivers/cl-fis/>
- Moms In Motion is still taking new families. If you know of someone who has been screened and approved for the CCC Plus Waiver or the DD Waivers and has chosen Consumer-Directed Waiver services, please tell them about **Moms In Motion**. To get started, they can speak to one of our Family Resource Specialists by calling 800-417-0908.

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 experiencing these challenges, please reach out to your MCO Care Coordinator, CSB Support Coordinator, or Dept. of Social Services worker to be connected with services and supports in your area.

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](#).

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.

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**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.

[MomsInMotion.net](https://MomsInMotion.net)