Service rate change for home delivered meals under aging programs

TOPIC
Information about a rate increase for home delivered meals and associated increases in monthly budgets effective July 1, 2020.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this bulletin is to notify lead agencies of the:
1. Rate increase for home delivered meals for Elderly Waiver (EW), Alternative Care (AC), and Essential Community Supports (ECS) participants;
2. Associated increases in monthly budgets.

CONTACT
Resources and contacts

SIGNED
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TERMINOLOGY NOTICE
The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.
I. Increase to home-delivered meals and monthly budgets

Minnesota statute establishes a link between nursing dietary per diem as reported in nursing facility cost reports and the rate for home-delivered meals (HDM) through Elderly Waiver (EW), Alternative Care (AC), and Essential Community Supports (ECS) (Minnesota Statutes, section 256S.215, subdivision 15).

Effective July 1, 2020, the HDM service rate for EW, AC, and ECS will increase by 3.53 percent. In conjunction with this service rate increase, as directed by statute, monthly budgets will also increase (Minnesota Statutes, section 256S.18, subdivision 5). The increases to monthly budgets are as follows:

- 0.04% increase to EW and AC monthly case mix budget caps.
- 0.04% increase to EW and AC Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) monthly case mix budget caps.
- 0.84% to Essential Community Supports monthly budgets.

Please see Long-Term Services and Supports Service Rate Limits (DHS-3945-ENG) for the updated budget amounts.

II. Implementation Instructions

A. MMIS automation and MnCHOICES Support Plan release

Lead agencies must refrain from adding or making any changes to service agreements in MMIS with home delivered meals from June 11 to June 12, 2020, or until DHS gives the all clear message. DHS will run a MMIS automation process on June 12, 2019 for the EW, AC, and ECS service agreements with home delivered meals only. Please see the Resources tab on the Long-term services and supports rates changes webpage for detailed instructions on making the rate and budget adjustments in MMIS to service agreements.

These rate and budget changes will also be applied to the MnCHOICES Support Plan through a release. Communications about this release will be sent separately, as usual, by Minnesota IT Services.

B. Managed Care Organizations

The home delivered meals service rate increase and the monthly case mix budget caps for EW and CDCS budgets will increase under Managed Care organizations (MCO) effective July 1, 2020. Care coordinators should follow MCO instructions regarding service authorizations for MCO enrollees.

C. Consumer Directed Community Support (CDCS) budgets

Lead agencies must inform Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) participants of the 0.04% increase to individual CDCS budgets. CDCS participants must use the CDCS Community Support Plan Addendum to communicate and document the budget and plan change. The lead agency must communicate the budget and plan change results to the Financial Management Services (FMS) providers within 60 days of the effective date of the rate increase.

D. Annual approval of monthly conversion budget cap

Monthly conversion budget limit requests for EW participants need to be submitted for approval annually.
Minnesota Statutes, section 256S.19 clarifies that the initially approved monthly conversion budget shall be adjusted by any legislatively adopted home and community based percentage rate adjustment. All requests submitted to extend monthly conversion budgets at renewal may not exceed this new adjusted amount and must include detailed documentation of any continued need for service costs resulting in EW costs greater than the case mix budget otherwise available to the person. The detail must include the most recent assessment results and coordinated service and support plan (CSSP) as rationale for an amount of service or needed staff qualifications to justify the monthly conversion budget limit requested. Documentation showing the detail of the need and cost for services to be authorized is also to be included annually. For further information on conversion budgets, please see this page in the Community-Based Services Manual.

### III. For more information

The following rate change information is found on [mn.gov/dhs/ltss-rates/](http://mn.gov/dhs/ltss-rates/).

- CDCS Community Support Plan Addendum (PDF)
- Long-term services and supports (LTSS) rate limits (PDF)
- Resources and contacts

### IV. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (651) 431-2600 (voice) or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency’s ADA coordinator.