



Protect Essential Services for Individuals with IDD

Overview and Purpose of Day Habilitation Services

Day Habilitation (DH) services are essential for more than 19,000 individuals with IDD and their families who rely on it as a service included in in the Home and Community-based Services (HCS) and Texas Home Living (TxHmL) program.

DH services support individuals with opportunities to:

- Gain skills, such as communication, money management, and safety
- Work towards and achieve goals, such as obtaining a job
- Socialize with peers and individuals in the community
- Reduce experiences of isolation
- Participate in community activities

DH services support families:

- By ensuring loved ones with IDD receive support from qualified and trained staff while they engage in activities
- By providing loved ones with a valuable, safe place to socialize with peers, learn skills, and work towards their goals
- For peace of mind knowing loved ones are not isolated while family members work and contribute to society

Transition of DH Services to Individualized Skills and Socialization

On March 1, 2023, the state is required to implement new federal standards and DH services will transition to Individualized Skills and Socialization (ISS) services. ISS is designed to provide enhanced DH services, including additional off-site services for individuals to participate in community activities in more integrated ways. IDD providers support improving DH services for people with IDD, but the rates proposed by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) fall short of supporting the actual cost of new service requirements.

The rates supporting current DH services for HCS and TxHmL providers fall short of supporting the costs of delivering this service. If the rates for the enhanced ISS services fall short of covering the actual cost, the current DH provider network will not have the resources necessary to implement the new ISS requirements, which include:

- Obtaining a modified DAHS license
- Providing a higher level of staffing support for on and off-site ISS services

KEY POINT: Implementation of the new ISS services without adequate rates to cover the actual costs associated with improved service requirements, means providers could be forced to close programs that are crucial for individuals and their families.

INSERT LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENTS – Draw from the following points to describe the importance of DH services for individuals and families in your local service area and the current or anticipated impact of changes to the program. This statement is intended to help legislators and other community leaders understand what is at risk with the potential loss of habilitative services and, if applicable, IDD Waiver program services.

- ☐ Stories of individuals/families who have benefitted from DH services

- ☐ Why it is not feasible to become an ISS provider?
 - Ratios in the Medicaid Policy Rule (in combination with the expected rates)
 - Workforce challenges
 - Short timeframe to implement certain requirements after rule is adopted in November (Implementation date is March 1, 2023)
 - ISS will create a bigger cost than Day Hab, and there are no resources to cover the cost of the program

- ☐ Impacts (if known) on providers in the community
 - Closed Day Habs/less providers because of COVID
 - Private providers who will not provide ISS
 - Providers, including Centers, who may not be able to continue operating IDD Waiver program services

- TO EMPHASIZE – The impact on individuals and their families if the resources necessary to provide ISS are not made available:
 - Individuals will not be able to socialize with friends and staff they know
 - Families will be forced to leave loved ones at home by themselves or quit jobs to care for them
 - Individuals with IDD will be isolated in their homes
 - Individuals will not have the opportunity to participate in activities with the supports of experienced providers