



Date: November 29, 2017

To: Community Living and Support Services Case Management
Agencies
Community Living and Support Services Direct Services Agencies
Deaf Blind with Multiple Disability Program Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 17-25 – Extensions of Eligibility and
Individual Plan of Care Authorizations for Individuals in CLASS and
DBMD Impacted by Hurricane Harvey

For individuals whose permanent residence on Aug. 25, 2017, was in a county declared a federal disaster area because of Hurricane Harvey and who are enrolled in the Community Living and Support Services program or the Deaf Blind with Multiple Disability program, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission can implement extensions of eligibility and individual plan of care authorizations on a case-by-case basis.

For CLASS or DBMD, if an individual's level of care expired in August, September, October or November 2017, an extension can be requested by a CLASS direct service agency or DBMD program provider. If an individual's individual plan of care expired in August, September, October or November 2017, an extension can be requested by a CLASS case management agency or DBMD program provider.

The following Texas counties are Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster declared counties: Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

Extensions of Eligibility

CLASS DSAs serving impacted individuals as described above can request an LOC extension by contacting Intellectual/Developmental Disability Program Enrollment Support at (512) 438-2484. DBMD program providers serving impacted individuals as described above can request an LOC extension by contacting IDD Utilization Review at (512) 438-4896.

HHSC staff will manually add LOC extensions for individuals with a permanent residence in a FEMA disaster declared county. These extensions will be for a duration of 90 days from the date of the individual's Intellectual Disability and Related Condition assessment expiration date, if the individual's LOC expired in August, September, October, or November 2017. The LOC will not be extended for those individuals who had the LOC renewed prior to the disaster having occurred.

To ensure appropriate levels of service continue to be authorized beyond the initial 90 day extension, the DBMD program provider or CLASS CMA will ensure an IPC renewal planning meeting occurs within 90 days and a plan revision is submitted to HHSC if needed.

To ensure continued programmatic eligibility, CLASS DSAs and DBMD program providers must ensure renewal ID/RCs are completed for all individuals who receive a 90 day LOC extension prior to the expiration date of the 90 day extension time period to confirm ongoing eligibility, with no gaps, for waiver program services.

DBMD program providers and CLASS DSAs must renew the LOC using a start date on the ID/RC that is the next day following the expiration of the LOC extension period. The end date will be the end date of the previously authorized LOC. CLASS DSAs and DBMD program providers must submit renewal ID/RCs to HHSC for processing.

Extensions of Individual Plan of Care Authorizations

Extensions of IPC service authorizations can be made if the IPC expired in August, September, October or November 2017. IPC extensions can be requested by CLASS CMAs and DBMD program providers by contacting IDD Utilization Review at (512) 438-4896.

To make sure appropriate levels of service continue to be authorized beyond the initial 90 day extension, the DBMD program provider or CLASS CMA are required to ensure an annual renewal service planning meeting occurs within 90 of days of the temporarily extended IPC expiration date and updates to the Individual Program Plan and IPC are made and submitted to HHSC.

After the designated time periods have expired, individuals will be required to remain within established program cost limits for their next IPC renewal.

If DBMD program providers have any questions about this information letter, please call the IDD UR message line at (512) 438-4896.

If CLASS DSAs have any questions about this information letter regarding a LOC extension, please call the IDD PES message line at (512) 438-2484. If CLASS CMAs have any questions about this information letter about the IPC extension, please call the IDD UR message line at (512) 438-4896.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Ivan Libson
Deputy Associate Commissioner
Program Enrollment & Support
HHSC Medicaid and CHIP Services

[signature on file]

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