



Date: November 29, 2017

To: Home and Community-based Services Program Providers
Local Intellectual/Developmental Disability Authorities
Texas Home Living Program Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 17-26 – Extensions of Eligibility and Individual Plan of Care Authorizations for Individuals in HCS and TxHmL 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 Home and Community-based Services Program or the Texas Home Living 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 HCS, if an individual's level of care and individual plan of care expired in August, September, October or November 2017, an extension can be requested by an HCS Program provider. For TxHmL, if an individual's LOC and IPC expired in August, September, October or November 2017, the extension may be requested by a local intellectual and developmental disability authority service coordinator.

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

Service coordinators and program providers serving impacted individuals as described above can request an LOC extension by contacting Intellectual/Developmental Disability Program Enrollment Support at (512) 438-2484.

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 continued programmatic eligibility, service coordinators and program providers will be required to ensure renewal ID/RCs are completed with all individuals who receive a 90 day extension. These renewals must be submitted in CARE prior to the expiration of the 90 day extension time period to confirm ongoing eligibility, with no gaps, for waiver program services. The LIDDA or provider will enter the Purpose Code 3 ID/RC using a start date that is the very next day following the expiration of the LOC extension period in CARE. The end date will be the end date of the formerly authorized ID/RC.

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 HCS program providers and by LIDDA service coordinators for individuals in TxHmL by contacting IDD Utilization Review at (512) 438-5055.

To make sure appropriate levels of service continue to be authorized beyond the initial 90 day extension, the LIDDA service coordinators are required to ensure an annual renewal service plan meeting occurs within 90 days of the temporarily extended IPC expiration date and updates to the person directed plan and IPC are made, as necessary. Any IPC revisions must be entered into CARE by the HCS program provider or the LIDDA service coordinator for individuals in TxHmL.

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

If you have any questions about this information letter regarding an LOC extension, please call the IDD PES message line at (512) 438-2484.

If you have any questions about this information letter regarding an IPC extension, please call the IDD UR message line at (512) 438-5055.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

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

[signature on file]

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