



Date: August 1, 2019

To: Community Living Assistance and Support Services Direct Services Agencies
Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities Program Providers
Home and Community-based Services Program Providers
Texas Home Living Program Providers

Subject: Information Letter 19-15 (REVISED: August 15, 2019)
Required Base Wages of Personal Attendants in the IDD Waivers
Effective September 1, 2019

This revision to Information Letter 19-15, originally published on August 1, 2019, provides an updated list of services for which a program provider is required to pay a base wage of at least \$8.11 per hour.

Through Rider 45 of the 2020-21 General Appropriations Act, the Texas Legislature provided funding to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for HHSC to require the contractors listed above to pay personal attendants a base wage of at least \$8.11 per hour. Effective September 1, 2019, HHSC will increase the reimbursement rates for Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) in-home respite so contractors can pay the new base wage as described in this letter. All other rates for services listed below already support a base wage of \$8.11 per hour.

HHSC is planning to amend rules in Texas Administrative Code to describe the new wage requirement, including the persons who must be paid the base wage. The amended rules will outline an unlicensed employee or contractor of a provider or an unlicensed CDS employee who provides any of the following services to be paid the base wage:

- in the CLASS Program:
 - habilitation (transportation);
 - Community First Choice Personal Assistance Services/Habilitation (CFC PAS/HAB); and
 - in-home respite;

- in the Deaf Blind Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) Program:
 - residential habilitation (transportation);
 - CFC PAS/HAB; and
 - in-home respite;
- in the Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Program:
 - supported home living (transportation);
 - CFC PAS/HAB; and
 - in-home respite¹; and
- in the Texas Home Living (TxHmL) Program:
 - community support (transportation);
 - CFC PAS/HAB; and
 - in-home respite.

Providers are required to comply with the requirements as outlined in this information letter effective September 1, 2019.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact the Long Term Services and Supports Policy Unit at LTSS_Policy@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Dana Williamson
Director
Policy Development and Support
HHSC Medicaid and CHIP Services

¹ Required for respite services as defined in the waiver only; the requirements described in this letter **do not** apply to similar services that may be subcontracted by a host home provider for temporary relief of the host home provider.