

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

Response to Requests for Provider Retainer Payments

ODP Announcement 20-039

AUDIENCE:

All Stakeholders

PURPOSE:

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has received a high volume of requests for provider retainer payments for providers of Supported Employment, In-Home and Community, Companion and Transportation services.

DISCUSSION:

ODP is committed to the objectives of Employment First and recognizes that the economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting Supported Employment providers especially hard as unemployment rates have skyrocketed and stay-at-home policies have resulted in significant job loss or temporary suspensions of work for the people receiving supported employment services. ODP also recognizes that many individuals and families are wary of, and in many cases are not allowing, service provision by non-relatives during the stay-at-home order which has left some In-Home and Community Supports and Companion providers with dramatic reduction in service provision.

ODP is currently conducting an analysis of the need for retainer payments and will provide status updates in the future.

While retainers are under consideration by ODP, providers should note that Congress has appropriated significant funds to make up for lost provider revenue. **We strongly encourage providers to examine the various resources that are available for businesses impacted by COVID-19.** Governor Wolf recently announced disaster assistance that is available through the U.S. Small Business Administration <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>, as well as through a new program under the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority's (PIDA's) Small Business First Fund, the

COVID-19 Working Capital Access Program (CWCA). Information on these opportunities and other business resources can be found by going to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's website at <https://dced.pa.gov/> and clicking on the "Resources for Businesses affected by COVID-19" link.