



Should we Pay Parents to Provide Developmental Disabilities Services: What Does it Mean?

Are you a person who gets Developmental Services?

The money for your services comes from the State. This money pays for staff to help you. There are rules about who can be paid to help you. Right now, the rules say that parents, stepparents, guardians, or their spouse or partner cannot be paid to help you.

Why is the State talking about Paying Parents?

During the pandemic, many people lost their staff and parents had to step in and provide the support that staff would have. The State had “flexibilities” during the pandemic that allowed parents to be paid. Flexibilities are exceptions. They say you don’t have to follow the normal rules when it comes to paying parents. The State allowed this so that people could get the help they need during the pandemic. The flexibilities are not forever. Some parents and people who get services are worried about not having the flexibilities in future and have asked the State to keep the rule about paying parents.

Even before the pandemic, many parents asked the State to change this rule. Some parents have said that they are in the best position to provide care to their child and should be allowed to be paid to do it. The State has thought about allowing this but has not agreed to make the change for many reasons.

Right now, the State is again thinking about allowing parents to be paid and would like to hear what people have to say about it.

People have different needs and get different kinds of support. For example:

Lucy lives in her own apartment and has support staff help her to grocery shop and get to her appointments. Lucy’s staff comes twice a week. Lucy lost her staff during

the pandemic, but she was able to use the bus to get to the grocery store and to her appointments. Lucy doesn't need full time support from staff or from her parents.

Miguel lives with his mother. He uses a wheelchair and has lots of medical needs. Miguel needs someone around to help him all the time. Miguel lost his staff during the pandemic and his mother had to quit her job to stay home and help him.

Right now, the rules say that Miguel's mother cannot be paid to help him. She can not go to work because there is no staff to help Miguel. Miguel's mom is worried about how she is going to pay her bills and care for Miguel.

If the State changes the rules, then Miguel's mom could be paid to help Miguel.

What Does this Mean?

If the State changes the rules, this will mean that parents would be paid like staff. Parents would have to follow the same rules as staff. For example, all staff must have a background check before they start working. Parents would need to do this too.

What is happening now?

The State wants to hear how you feel about paying parents. The State is holding meetings online (like ZOOM) to hear what people think. The State is interested in hearing what you think about paying parents. Should the State allow it? If it is allowed, what rules should there be about when and how it is allowed?

Here are the ways you can let the State know your thoughts:

1. On the Internet

The Paying Parents forums will be on the internet.

2. Email

You can email your thoughts and questions about paying parents using this email

address: AHS.DAILDDSDSOCPRegulations@vermont.gov

3. Write a Letter

You can ask questions and express your thoughts by writing a letter.

Here is our address:

Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living

Developmental Disabilities Services Division

280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-2030

Where can I find more information?

You can find more information about paying parents by visiting our website:

[Proposed Changes to the Vermont State System of Care Plan for DDS](#)