

WSC ADVISORY #2017-026
IBUDGET SYSTEM PREPARATION FOR RATE CHANGES

ACTION REQUIRED

EFFECTIVE DATE: *MAY 26, 2017*

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is preparing to implement rate increases approved by the Florida Legislature which take effect on July 1, 2017 upon signature of the Governor. The following services will be affected with rate changes:

- Life Skills 3 (Adult Day Training)
- Personal Supports
- Nursing and Respite Skilled Nursing – LPN rate only
- All levels and types of Residential Habilitation
- Life Skills 2 (Supported Employment)

Most consumers already have approved service plans for the first quarter of FY 17-18 (July 1, 2017-September 30, 2017). If the first quarter service plans meet your consumer's needs, we are requesting WSCs make no changes to service plans until after the implementation of the rates.

To get the new rates implemented in the iBudget system and to get the iBudget annualized amounts in place (that are to be increased due to the new rates), APD will be taking the following three actions. These are temporary adjustments that are being made solely for administrative purposes and will not affect the approved service authorizations.

1. From June 12, 2017 to June 25, 2017, the cost plan function in the iBudget system will be temporarily unavailable for WSCs to make changes. During this time, APD staff will ensure as much as possible that all pended cost plans are processed prior to the rate implementation. Once the rates have been implemented and the iBudget amounts increased, normal operations will resume.
2. If a consumer has an emergency need between June 12 and June 25, the WSC must contact the Region by telephone for assistance in addressing the need.
3. The automatic email notification feature in the iBudget system will temporarily be turned off so that the WSC does not receive emails for their entire caseload when the rates and budgets are updated.

It is anticipated the full functionality of the system will be available on June 25, 2017 so that WSCs can resume normal activities in the iBudget system. Since the July 2017 through September 2017 service plans are already approved in the iBudget system, these service plans will be updated with the new rates. The new rates will be applied to any service plans currently in the iBudget system for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. For those cost plans that have not been created

Effective June 22, 2017, APD will automatically increase the rates in service plans within the iBudget system and increase consumer's budgets to accommodate for the rates using the client's current approved services. **Service authorizations will be available for WSCs to send to providers on June 26, 2017. WSCs will be providing these authorizations no later than July 15, 2017.** If a provider has a question about their service authorizations for July 1, they should contact the WSC. As always WSCs should let providers know of any change in service provision prior to the change.

Additional information will be forthcoming to WSCs through additional advisories.