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**Kevin Corbett** | Chief Executive Officer

**J. Kevin Stitt** | Governor

I/T/U Public Notice 2021-09  
May 25, 2021

**RE: Oklahoma Health Care Authority Proposed COVID-19 Disaster Relief Request**

Dear Tribal Representative:

The purpose of this letter is to give you notice of the proposed COVID-19 disaster relief policy follow-up requests that were submitted to CMS on March 26, 2021.

In response to the public health emergency declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services invoked his authority to waive or modify certain requirements of titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to assist states in responding to the COVID-19 national emergency. CMS is allowing states to request flexibilities which revise policies related to eligibility, enrollment, benefits, premiums, cost sharing, and payments outlined in their Medicaid state plans as well as Section 1115 demonstrations. The flexibilities ensure sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of Medicaid members and to ensure health care providers who furnish such services in good faith but are unable to comply with one or more of such requirements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, may be reimbursed for services absent any determination of fraud or abuse.

OHCA requested the following COVID-19 related change through a disaster relief Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) Appendix K:

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a great amount of financial strain on the provider community. Providers have experienced lockdowns causing non-budgeted overtime costs, increased cost for personal protective equipment, and a tightening labor market. The proposed rate increase seeks to temporarily provide additional compensation to HCBS providers during the public emergency.

Oklahoma has deemed it necessary to reimburse HCBS providers with an additional retroactive add-on COVID-19 rate. This add-on payment will apply to all services in which face-to-face contact is essential for beneficiary health and safety. The amount of the retroactive add-on payment rate will not exceed 20% of the provider's current rate for the following services:



**ADDRESS**

4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105



**WEBSITES**

[okhca.org](http://okhca.org)  
[mysoonerCare.org](http://mysoonerCare.org)



**PHONE**

Admin: 405-522-7300  
Helpline: 800-987-7767



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DDS Waiver Services

- Adult Day
- Agency Companion
- Daily Living Supports
- Extended Duty Nursing
- Group Home
- Habilitation Training Specialist
- Homemaker
- Intensive Personal Supports
- Nursing
- Prevocational
- Respite
- Specialized Foster Care
- Supported Employment

ADvantage Waiver Services

- Skilled Nursing
- Personal Care
- Respite
- Adult Day
- Assisted Living
- Hospice
- Nursing Facility Respite

The services provided by these rates are available to recipients on the Medicaid In Home Supports Waiver for Children, In-Home Supports Waiver for Adults, Homeward Bound Waiver, Community Waiver and ADvantage Waiver. The retroactive add-on payment rate will be for the time period of October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

The OHCA values consultation with tribal governments and will strive to provide your representatives up-to-date information regarding the requests submitted to CMS.

Additionally, this item will be discussed in the upcoming face-to-face tribal consultation on June 8, 2021.

Sincerely,

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Dana Miller  
Director, Tribal Government Relations



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