



July 29, 2020

To: ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

This week, the Office of Development Disabilities Services issued a [transmittal](#) announcing a hold on approving additional Expanded Family Support and Family Support authorizations effective immediately.

ODDS moved quickly to identify ways to support families in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. We rarely spend the funds for the Family Support program during the biennia and so we decided to expand access to Family Support funding, increasing the number of families that can access the funds and allowing for purchases of items that are generally not approved through Medicaid. ODDS wanted to help support families during the pandemic, particularly since schools were closed and many families struggled during the stay at home order.

We appreciate the hard work that CDDPs did to review requests and approve items to help families through a tough time. We also heard from many families who appreciated the extra support during the stay at home order and the ability to purchase items to help keep children active and healthy.

While we did expand access to the service, ODDS did not receive additional funding for this specific effort. Due to this, ODDS is holding on authorizations for both Family Support and Expanded Family Support while we assess the budget situation.

I want to acknowledge the difficulty many faced coping with online schooling and maintaining family and work life in the midst of a pandemic and stay at home orders. Hopefully the expanded supports helped during those early tough months of the pandemic.

Thank you for all you are doing to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" that loops around the first part of the name.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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