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Jan. 20, 2021

To: ODDS Stakeholders

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

Subject: Parents as PSWs and DSPs

I recently announced in a [message](#) a temporary option for parents/guardians of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become Personal Support Workers (PSWs). This option only applies during the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for the COVID-19 pandemic and will not be a permanent change.

Based on stakeholder feedback, ODDS is updating its rules to allow private agencies to hire parents to support their minor children during the PHE, if the agency chooses to do so. This means parents of qualifying children may become temporary PSWs or temporary Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

In order to support families of children under 18 with the most significant need, this option allows parents to temporarily provide paid hourly supports to their children as PSWs or DSPs. Parents of qualifying children can begin their enrollment paperwork now.

This option will be available to children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who have the most significant support needs. Specifically, this option will be available for parents of children who:

- Meet criteria for the Children's Intensive In-Home Services (CIIS) program including the Medically Fragile, Medically Involved, and Behavior programs, and/or;
- Require 240 hours or more of attendant care monthly based on their current Child Needs Assessment (CNA).

If your child qualifies for this option, your Services Coordinator can provide additional information about how to become a PSW or DSP. A parent who is a paid provider will need to complete paperwork and meet basic requirements, such as passing a background check and following all applicable Oregon rules. Additionally, this includes following ODDS guidance on providing paid support during distance learning.

Thank you for all that you do for your children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lilia".

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

*Previous Director's Messages are available at*  
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>

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Thank you for all that you do for your children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lilia".

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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