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December 9, 2021

Dear Provider,

We would like to provide some clarification on the pandemic recognition pay that was issued to all Oregon Home Care Commission homecare workers, personal care attendants, and personal support workers on Dec. 1, 2021. Pandemic recognition pay was paid to providers who worked in-person during the height of the pandemic, between March 2020 and April 2021. As with any paycheck, the amount each individual receives depends on the program, pay rate and the taxes that they pay. Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) programs also have differences.

The ODHS Office of Aging & People with Disabilities and OHA's Health Systems Division determined that the pandemic recognition pay is considered supplemental wages, so homecare workers and personal care attendants received their pandemic recognition pay with taxes taken out in advance. That means homecare workers and personal care attendants received checks for \$1,410.35.

Pandemic pay for personal support workers associated with the ODHS Office of Developmental Disabilities Services did not have any taxes withheld. Personal support workers received \$2,261.99. However, these funds are taxable and will be included on their annual tax documents.

We understand this difference in how the payments were taxed may have caused confusion. The Oregon Home Care Commission Customer Relations Unit at 877-624-6080 or OHCC.CustomerRelations@dhsaha.state.or.us can answer any questions about pandemic recognition pay.

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Cheryl Miller, Director
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