

# Participant Education, Training, and Advocacy Supports Policy

## Stakeholder Input Summary

Participant Education, Training, and Advocacy Supports is a DDA-operated Waiver Program Support Service. This service provides funding for the costs of training programs, workshops, and conferences. The purpose of this service is to assist the participant with increasing their self-advocacy skills, exercise their civil rights and develop skills needed to control and be responsible for their support services.

The Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) issued its proposed policy for Participant Education, Training, and Advocacy Supports on February 21, 2023, requesting input from participants, families, Coordination of Community Service agencies, community providers, and advocacy organizations. The Stakeholder input period ended on March 7, 2023. In total, three (3) unduplicated stakeholders submitted input. Below is a summary of the stakeholder recommendations and the DDA's responses.

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>DDA Response</b>
1.	Comment: Participants who choose to self-direct their services should be required to take one initial training class on Employer and Budget Authority to ensure they understand the role and additional efforts that are needed to accomplish their goals.	The DDA is developing various training related to self-directed services to support knowledge and understanding by all stakeholders including participants.
2.	Comment: Please include examples of what is covered under this service within the policy.	The policy notes: Participant Education, Training and Advocacy Supports include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enrollment fees to access the training program, conferences, and workshops;</li> <li>2. Books and other educational materials; and</li> <li>3. Transportation so the participant can attend and participate in the training program, workshop, or conference.</li> </ol>
3.	Comment: Recommend to update provider list with providers across the state who are able to provide this service would be helpful.	The DDA will be updating its list to include providers of Participant Education, Training, and Advocacy Supports.

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4.	<p>Comment: Please clarify if the cost of transportation services funded through this waiver service must come out of the \$500 funding limit for this service.</p>	<p>The cost of transportation for the participant to attend and participate in training courses, conferences, and other similar events is included within this service. The cost is part of the allowable funding limit.</p>
5.	<p>Comment: Special service requirements and limitations are currently listed as \$500 per participant within the policy. Please explain the SDS reasonable and customary rates for hours vs. fees. Hourly goes up to \$1095 while fees are capped at \$500 for this service.</p>	<p>This service is an upper pay limit. The total cost of the fees and hours can not exceed \$1595 annually. Participant Education, Training, and Advocacy Supports are limited to a maximum of 10 hours of training per participant per year. Training or registration fees for registrations, costs at specific training events, workshops, seminars or conferences is limited to \$500 per participant per year. The DDA will review the SDS reasonable and customary rates and update to clarify.</p>
6.	<p>Comment: Recommend adding language to the definition of Legally Responsible Person to be the same as is in the Waiver:</p> <p>“Legally Responsible Person” is an individual who has a legal obligation under the provisions of Maryland law to care for another individual. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A parent (either natural or adoptive) <i>of a minor</i>, legal guardian; or</li> <li>b. An individual otherwise legally responsible for the care of a minor (e.g., foster parent or relative appointed by court).</li> </ul>	<p>The policy will be amended to include this language.</p>