

Family Caregiver Training and Empowerment Services Policy Stakeholder Input Summary

Family Caregiver Training and Empowerment Services is a DDA-operated Waiver Program support service. This service offers education materials, training programs, workshops and conferences to a participant’s unpaid family caregiver. The purpose of the service is to assist them in skill building to support confidence, independence, and empowerment, and strengthen the family unit.

The Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) issued its proposed policy for Family Caregiver Training and Empowerment Services on February 21, 2023, requesting input from participants, families, Coordination of Community Services 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.

| | Comment | DDA Response |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | <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"> a. A parent (either natural or adoptive) <i>of a minor</i>, legal guardian; or b. An individual otherwise legally responsible for the care of a minor (e.g., foster parent or relative appointed by court). | <p>The policy will be amended to include this language.</p> |

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| 2. | <p>Comment: Please clarify if the funding limit of \$500 for this service is limited to just one unpaid caregiver.</p> | <p>This service is an upper pay limit. The total cost of the fees and hours can not exceed \$1595 annually. Family Caregiver Training and Empowerment services are limited to a maximum of 10 hours of training for unpaid family caregiver per participant per year. Educational materials and training programs, workshops and conferences registration costs for unpaid family caregiver is limited to up to \$500 per participant per year.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Comment: Please include examples of what is covered under each service within the policy.</p> | <p>The policy notes: Family Caregiver Training and Empowerment Services includes educational materials, training programs, workshops and conferences.</p> |