

Subject Modifying the Disability Waiver Rate System

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Overview

This bill modifies the Disability Waiver Rate System (DWRS) by modifying requirements related to rate exceptions and stakeholder consultation. The bill also establishes a single-occupancy monthly room and board rate add-on for certain housing support recipients.

DWRS is Minnesota's uniform, statewide methodology to determine reimbursement rates for home and community-based services provided under the four Medicaid (MA) disability waivers: the community alternative care (CAC) waiver, the community access for disability inclusion (CADI) waiver, the developmental disability (DD) waiver, and the brain injury (BI) waiver. In fiscal year 2024, DWRS distributed about \$3.185 billion in state and federal funds for reimbursement to providers of qualifying services.

The Housing Support Program (formerly known as group residential housing or GRH) is a state program that provides payments on behalf of eligible persons to pay for room and board and related housing services. The Housing Support Program is funded with state general fund dollars and receives some federal reimbursement for food and nutrition costs.

In state fiscal year 2023, an average of 20,218 persons received housing support payments each month. Expenditures for the fiscal year were nearly \$200 million. The average monthly payment per person was \$794. More than half of housing support recipients are aged, blind, or disabled, and the rest of the recipients are unable to support themselves due to a disabling condition.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Data collection for rate determination.</p> <p>Amends § 256B.4914, subd. 4. Adds language requiring lead agencies to review and approve services and values to calculate the final payment rate for services provided under DWRS within 30 business days of receiving specified information from the service provider. Makes technical changes.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2025, effective date.</p>
2	<p>Exceptions.</p> <p>Amends § 256B.4914, subd. 14. Requires an approved rate exception under DWRS to remain in effect in all cases if the individual's interdisciplinary team determines that removing the rate exception would have a negative impact on the individual's well-being.</p> <p>Makes this section effective July 1, 2025, or upon federal approval, whichever is later. Requires the commissioner of human services to inform the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.</p>
3	<p>Stakeholder consultation and county training.</p> <p>Amends § 256B.4914, subd. 17. Requires the commissioner to consult with existing stakeholder groups to periodically review, update, and revise the format by which initiators of rate exception requests and lead agencies collect and submit information about individuals with exceptional needs.</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2025, effective date.</p>
4	<p>Rate increases.</p> <p>Amends § 256I.05, subd. 1c. Requires an agency to negotiate a single-occupancy monthly room and board rate add-on for any housing support recipient who cannot live with others and is residing in a licensed community residential setting. Limits the single-occupancy monthly room and board rate add-on to no more than \$1,000 plus an annual percentage adjustment to the allowable monthly add-on equal to the percentage change in the MSA equivalent rate. Requires the determination that a housing support recipient cannot live with others to be documented in the individual's support plan. Defines "community residential setting" and "support plan."</p> <p>Provides a July 1, 2025, effective date.</p>



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