



MARYLAND
Department of Health

Self-Directed Services – Community Pathways Waiver

A Guide to Reasonable and Customary Rates

Under the DDA’s Medicaid Home & Community Based Waivers¹, Self-Directed Services participants (“SDS Participants”) can establish their own payment rates for approved services. However, these rates must be reasonable and customary.

SDS Participants must comply with all applicable DDA regulations and policies, including the “Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) for Participants in Self-Directed Services” Policy.²

To assist SDS Participants, the DDA has developed this Guide to identify what rates the DDA would approve as meeting this reasonable and customary requirement.

The following table provides information on average rates for services and the range of DDA-approved rates considered reasonable and customary.

Service	Average	Range	Additional Information
Personal Support	\$15.92	\$8.75 to \$22.83	Rates over \$22.83 per hour may be allowed for a professional (individual with a specialized degree/certification). DDA may request that a significant annual raise in staff salaries be justified based on whether the waiver participant successfully reached his or her goals, a significant change in the participant’s needs, and/or the staff member’s successful completion of additional training or education.
Supported Employment	\$16.11	\$9.15 to \$22.83	Rates over \$20.00 per hour may be allowed for a professional (individual with a specialized degree/certification). DDA may request that a significant annual raise in staff salaries be justified based on whether the waiver participant successfully reached his or her goals, a significant change in the participant’s needs, and/or the staff member’s successful completion of additional training or education.
Community Learning Services (Community Development Services in 2019)	\$16.02	\$9.15-\$20.00	Rates over \$20.00 per hour may be allowed for a professional (individual with a specialized degree/certification). DDA may request that a significant annual raise in staff salaries be justified based on whether the waiver participant successfully reached his or her goals, a significant change in the participant’s needs, and/or the staff member’s successful completion of additional training or education.

¹ The DDA currently has the Community Pathways Waiver. However, the DDA is in the process of submitting applications to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for two additional waivers. Once approved by CMS, if a new waiver provides for Self-Directed Services, then this Guide will apply.

² [COLA policy]

Employment Discovery & Customization	\$14.75	\$12-\$17.50	May be provided for up to a 6 month period. Additional increments may be authorized by the DDA.
Respite	\$16.32	\$10-\$50	May use a DHMH-certified overnight camp covered under COMAR 10.16.06. Services may not exceed 45 days within a rolling year and may not be provided for more than 28 consecutive days. Services provided by a person residing in the same residence or property will not be funded.
Support Brokerage	\$36.00	\$0 to \$65.00 per hour	Spouses and legally responsible adults (i.e. parents of children) may act only as unpaid Support Brokers. Legal Representative Payee is not eligible to provide SB services. Support Broker cannot provide any other service to the participant. Start of services is limited to 10 hours/month unless pre-authorized by DDA. To date, rates of \$50 per hour and above have been approved for Support Broker agencies only.
Nurse Delegation Services		\$47.67 to \$52.67	
Transportation	N/A	N/A	May not exceed federally-approved mileage reimbursement rate.
Assistive Technology & Adaptive Equipment	N/A	N/A	Must be pre-authorized by the DDA.
Environmental Assessment		Fixed price: \$399.27	Limited to one assessment annually. Service must be rendered by a licensed occupational therapist.
Environmental Accessibility Adaptations	N/A	N/A	Payment for services may not exceed \$17,500 (combined total with vehicle modifications) over a participant's lifespan unless authorized by DDA. All adaptations over \$1000 must be pre-authorized by the DDA. Services provided by a family member or relative are not covered.

Vehicle Modification	N/A	N/A	Payment for services may not exceed \$17,500 (combined total with environmental accessibility adaptations) over a participant's lifespan unless authorized by DDA.
Transition Services	N/A	N/A	Itemized list must be included with initial request for funding. Total may not exceed \$5000 in a lifetime. For participants transitioning from an institution or provider-operated living arrangement to a living arrangement in a private residence where the participant is directly responsible for his or her own living expenses. Items may not be purchased from a family member or relative.
Live-in Caregiver Rent	N/A	N/A	Includes rent for an unrelated personal caregiver (unrelated by blood or marriage) who is residing in the same household with a participant. Calculated using the difference in rental costs between a 1 and 2 bedroom unit using rental rates within Fair Market Rent for the jurisdiction as determined by the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Explicit agreements must be executed and signed by both parties and be approved by the DDA prior to the initiation of the service.
Family and Individual Support Services – including Individual Directed Goods and Services	N/A	N/A	IDGS is limited to those who are self-directing their services. Limited to \$2,000 per year from the total self-directed budget. Does not make payment to spouses or legally responsible individuals for support or similar services. Experimental or prohibited treatments prohibited by law are excluded.