



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES

COMMUNITY SERVICES

January 30, 2023

Dear Service Recipient and Family,

I am sure by now that you have heard something about the new Pediatric Respite benefit covered by Medicaid through the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) for children aged 21 and under. This benefit does have eligibility requirements and we anticipate that many of the children that the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) currently supports through our State-funded respite program will qualify. This is a brand-new benefit program as of January 1, 2023, so it will take some time to get individuals transitioned. While we know that any time there are changes that it can naturally cause some concern and anxiety, we at DDDS and DMMA want to be sure to share the following information with you and your family:

- For now, nothing is changing with your respite benefit through DDDS and will not change until you have successfully transitioned to the Medicaid Pediatric Respite benefit administered by DMMA. DDDS has continued to take respite requests for the coming months without change or delay and will continue to do so until everyone that is eligible is transitioned. Over the coming months, individuals eligible for the Medicaid Pediatric Respite benefit will be transitioned from the DDDS Respite program to the Medicaid benefit.
- DDDS and DMMA employees are committed to this transition being as smooth of a process as possible for everyone involved and are in routine communication regarding planning and next steps. There will be additional information shared with you and your family as soon as the remaining details are worked through.
- If you would like to know more about the Pediatric Respite benefit that may be available to you through your Managed Care Organization (MCO), please call the number on the back of your Medicaid insurance card and let them know that you would like to speak to a Care Coordinator about the Pediatric Respite benefit.

DDDS fully appreciates how you have come to rely on the DDDS State-funded Respite program over the years and wants to assure you that we are committed to ensuring that you and your caregivers respite needs continue to be met during this period of transition.

Sincerely,

Stacy L. Watkins

Stacy Watkins
Assistant Director of Community Services-Operations