



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services

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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

Carole Johnson
Commissioner

Sheila Y. Oliver
Lt. Governor

February 14, 2019

Dear Community Service Supports Provider:

This correspondence is intended to communicate several important items related to Community Support Services (CSS). The Department of Human Services (DHS) will be extending the availability of cost-based contracting for Community Support Services for one additional year - July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

During this timeframe, DHS will convene the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (Medicaid), and community stakeholders to consider innovative payment strategies for CSS. This will include a formal workgroup partnering with DHS to analyze potential payment models that will move the program forward.

Much has happened over this past year related to CSS including analysis of a time study; gathering information through focus groups and bi-weekly CSS-specific calls; analysis of Medicaid billing; and, review of NJ Mental Health Application for Payment Processing data. Review of expenditure reports, other contract documents, and individualized provider site monitoring reviews have contributed to the decision to keep CSS in deficit-funded contract in state fiscal year 2020.

In the coming year, CSS contract providers are required to continue to fulfill all contract requirements (including program and fiscal reporting requirements) in a timely manner. This information will help to inform recommendations for a payment strategy for CSS. Another equally important contract requirement is the appropriate billing of Medicaid for CSS-billable services.

The Division will be reaching out to you to provide more specific information about contract renewals for the upcoming year. It is our hope that this news will provide CSS agencies additional time to assess overall CSS operations while we examine the current payment structure for CSS services. We look forward to working with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carole Johnson".

Carole Johnson
Commissioner

c: Valerie Mielke
Renee Burawski
Morris Friedman