



INNOVATIONS WAIVER DIRECT CARE WORKER RATE INCREASE

NC Medicaid announced an incremental rate increase for Innovations Waiver Direct Care Workers (DCWs), effective October 1, 2026. This initiative is supported by \$21.3 million in recurring state funds appropriated under Session Law 2026-41, Section 9E.14.

The increased funding is intended to support eligible Innovations Waiver DCWs. Providers may use the funds for:

- Increased hourly wages;
- Employee benefits; and/or
- Associated payroll costs.

INNOVATIONS WAIVER DCW RATE ADD ONS

Procedure Code	Service Description	Unit of Service	Assumed # of 15 Min Units	Assumed Group/Home Size	DCW Add-On
H2015	Community Networking - Individual	15 min	1	1	\$0.30
H2015 HQ	Community Networking - Group	15 min	1	3	\$0.10
H2016	Residential Supports Level 1	per diem	64	2.5	\$7.68
H2016 HI	Residential Supports Level 4	per diem	64	2.5	\$7.68
H2025	Supported Employment Services - Individual	15 min	1	1	\$0.30
H2025 TS	Supported Employment Long Term Services - Individual	15 min	1	1	\$0.30

Procedure Code	Service Description	Unit of Service	Assumed # of 15 Min Units	Assumed Group/Home Size	DCW Add-On
H2025 HQ	Supported Employment Services - Group	15 min	1	2	\$0.15
H2025 TS HQ	Supported Employment Long Term Services - Group	15 min	1	2	\$0.15
S5150	Respite Care - Community Facility	15 min	1	1	\$0.30
S5150 HQ	Respite Care - Community Group	15 min	1	2	\$0.15
S5150 US	Respite Care - Individual/Group/Institutional	per diem	64	3	\$6.40
T2012	Community Living and Support Individual (Community)	15 min	1	1	\$0.30
T2012 GC	Community Living and Support Individual (GC)	15 min	1	1	\$0.30
T2012 HQ	Community Living and Support Group (Community)	15 min	1	1.5	\$0.20
T2012 GC HQ	Community Living and Support Group (GC)	15 min	1	1.5	\$0.20
T2013 TF	Community Living and Supports Individual	15 min	1	1	\$0.30
T2013 TF HQ	Community Living and Supports Group (Subject to EVV)	15 min	1	1.5	\$0.20
T2014	Residential Supports Level 2	per diem	64	2.5	\$7.68

Procedure Code	Service Description	Unit of Service	Assumed # of 15 Min Units	Assumed Group/Home Size	DCW Add-On
T2020	Residential Supports Level 3	per diem	64	2.5	\$7.68
T2021	Day Supports - Individual	per hour	4	1	\$1.20
T2021 HQ	Day Supports - Group	per hour	4	3	\$0.40
T2027	Developmental Day	15 min	1	1	\$0.30
T2033	Supported Living	per diem	32	1	\$9.60
T2033 HI	Supported Living - Level 2	per diem	64	1	\$19.20
T2033 TF	Supported Living - Level 3	per diem	96	1	\$28.80
T2033 U1	Supported Living Periodic	15 min	1	1	\$0.30
T2033 U2	Supported Living Transition	15 min	1	1	\$0.30

IMPLEMENTATION AND CLAIMS REPROCESSING

Providers may begin using the updated rates now. Existing member-specific and provider enhanced rates that exceed the new DCW rates will remain in effect. Providers do not need to take any action to retain these higher rates.

Trillium will reprocess claims with dates of service on or after October 1, 2026, to apply the increased rates retroactively. Providers do not need to take any action to initiate reprocessing.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Providers seeking to receive the DCW rate increase must meet additional requirements, including:

- Completing and submitting a signed attestation;
- Submitting annual reports; and
- Maintaining supporting documentation, including payroll and other records, demonstrating how the increased funds are used.

Trillium will provide further guidance on these requirements in a future communication.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, please review the following resources:

- [Direct Care Worker Wage Increase Initiatives - SFY 2027 webpage](#)
- [DCW Wage Increase Initiative FAQs - SFY 2027](#)

For questions about the Innovations Waiver DCW rate increase, please contact the Rates Team at RatesFinance@TrilliumNC.org.