

To: All Trillium Members and Stakeholders
From: Cindy Ehlers, Executive Vice President
Date: December 16, 2020
Subject: State-Funded, Innovations Waiver, and Medicaid B3 Respite Update, Help with Utility Bills

As the State of North Carolina continues reopening, Trillium will share information with our members, their families or guardians, and our community stakeholders. While some temporary COVID-19 changes will end, such as working from home and not visiting loved ones, we realize some changes may be here to stay. Throughout this process, Trillium will send email and other communications to share news about opportunities, updates from the State, and how we are serving you during this unusual time.

STATE-FUNDED, INNOVATIONS WAIVER, AND MEDICAID B3 RESPITE UPDATE

Trillium works to support members in their communities whenever possible. We are aware children with behavioral health or I/DD needs and their families often need a break. It is important to remember that Respite can be utilized to provide this break for members and their families. Respite can also be utilized as a pre-planned way to avoid an interruption in residential care or to avoid crisis situations. Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, our families need support now more than ever and Respite is a vital way to help reduce stress. Respite should be a vital part of any member's crisis plan.

Respite can also be used to support members and families during the school day within certain requirements. This helps to ensure that members are able to receive the support that they need while participating in virtual learning and family members or guardians continue to work. However, there are limitations for Respite during remote learning:

- 🌱 Respite **cannot** be used to assist with academic work. Examples include, but are not limited to, educational instruction, completion of educational activities, etc.
- 🌱 Respite **can** be utilized to support with logging on to remote learning and school-related Teletherapy sessions, asking for technical assistance and managing the individual's non-academic support needs. This may include paying attention to the task at hand, behavior management, personal care needs, etc.

To help guide members and their families in utilizing this service, please be aware of the following:

- ♻️ Respite can be offered to children and youth with behavioral health or I/DD needs through Medicaid B3 and State funding.
- ♻️ The Medicaid B3 and State-Funded Respite Benefit is being increased to 30 hours a week for children with behavioral health or I/DD needs.
- ♻️ State-funded Respite applies to children up to the age of 18. Medicaid B3 Respite is available for children up to the age of 22.
- ♻️ The Medicaid B3 and State-Funded Respite Benefit is being increased to 30 hours a week to be able to cover the virtual school day in addition to planned calendar breaks in the school year such as holidays and school work-days, during school hours for sickness, injury, when a student is suspended or expelled, or school hours during the public health emergency that requires remote learning.
- ♻️ For those on the Innovations Waiver, Respite is available to be used during school hours as well. Respite should be provided as outlined in the member's Individual Support Plan (ISP).

Members and guardians should check with their provider to ensure Respite services are offered; if you need help finding a provider who offers Respite, please call Trillium at 1-877-685-2415.

HELP WITH UTILITY BILLS

Do you need help paying your heating bills? The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) may be able to help you. Households with a person age 60 or older or a disabled person receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) who currently receives Food and Nutrition Services and received LIEAP during the 2019-2020 LIEAP season last year may qualify to receive an Automated Payment this LIEAP Season. These households will be notified of eligibility in November and do not need to apply for this benefit.

For more information on how to apply if you did not receive this information, please visit [this link](#).

As always, members may contact our Call Center 24 hours a day through our **Access to Care Line at 1-877-685-2415**. The health, safety, and overall well-being of our community is first and foremost in everything we do. To learn more, please check out [our website](#), follow us on [social media](#), or give us a call if you have any questions.

If you were forwarded this email and have not signed up to receive these notifications, [you can do so here](#).

Any questions about this Communication Bulletin may be sent to the following email: MemberEngagement@TrilliumNC.org. These questions will be answered in a Q&A format and published on Trillium's website.