

# OPRA MEMBER UPDATE

News, Resources and Events for OPRA Members

DECEMBER 22, 2020

**Vaccine Update:** More details on the state of Ohio's vaccination plan are slowly emerging, as well as further guidance from DODD as to how 'Phase 1A' will work. We know that some providers are enrolled through their pharmacy through the federal distribution program and may even have individuals and staff scheduled to receive the vaccine as early as this week. The majority of providers will likely be working through their local health departments to schedule vaccinations. DODD is actively working with ODH and county boards of DD to make sure there are valid addresses and points of contact for as many people supported through our system who are eligible for vaccination in phase 1A.

We are also attaching an OPRA brief developed by our partners at Vorys in response to CDC guidance around post-vaccination considerations and how to identify and handle symptomatic reactions to the vaccine in staff. [Please review the member brief here](#) and let us know what questions you have. We advise you consult your own counsel when developing any agency policies related to the vaccine. [You can also read the latest guidance from DODD on distribution phase 1A here.](#)

**Federal Covid Relief Bill:** We finally see some real tangible movement with the passage of a \$900B relief bill. At Over 5,500 pages long, the bill combines Covid relief and the federal budget. We know the deal includes another round of the PPP, likely even for agencies funded during the first round. While the number of allowable employees for eligible agencies is lowered to 300, there does appear to be an expansion of how the PPP funds can be spent. The bill also appears to extend paid leave and corresponding tax break provisions through March. The bill also includes individual stimulus checks starting at \$600, depending on income level, which we believe most staff and people you support should be eligible for. The bill extends the pandemic-related unemployment benefits, including an extra \$300 a week until March 14th. The bill included an extension of the deadline to spend the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), which includes money that ICFs received in Ohio. We are following up with OBM as to whether agencies who received those funds now have until the end of 2021 to spend them. Unfortunately, the bill does not include money for states and local governments nor did it include an increase to the FMAP for state Medicaid programs that we felt were important pieces to protect the state's budget. [To read more about the bill, click here.](#)

**STEP Changes:** Yesterday's Memo Monday included an update we've been awaiting on new flexibility allowed when providing ADS/Voc Hab through STEP model (Virtual, Community, or in-home). Beginning on January 1, 2021, STEP groups can include up to 5 individuals and still be billed at the acuity C rate. The guidance also now allows for STEP groups to drop into facilities/centers as needed for meals, personal care, etc...as long as that group remains separate from the other cohorts. The guidance also updates billing practices to include a daily rate option for when services are delivered between 5-7 hours/day, the same as traditional ADS/VH codes. [To read the memo, which also includes guidance on the 'acuity B' rate beginning 1/1/, click here.](#)

