UPDATE from Denver Human Services on September paid CCAP absences

August 21, 2020

Dear Denver CCAP Providers,

As you’re aware, Denver Human Services has continued to pay a higher level of absences to our CCAP providers due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Through the month of August, DHS has committed to paying up to 10 authorized CCAP absences per child per month. The availability of funding unfortunately is requiring us, like our neighboring counties, to lower the number of absences to something within our fiscal means.

As it stands now, given what we know today, if DHS were to continue to pay absences up to 10 per month, the department will overspend its available state and federal funding for the Child Care Assistance Program by more than $10 million. We will need to lower the number of such paid absences in order to reduce our overspending, and will start doing so in September, when DHS will pay providers for up to 8 authorized CCAP absences per child per month. We will analyze this on a monthly basis and do our best to notify providers of any changes in DHS’s paid absence policy within a few days of the middle of the month preceding its effective date.

At this point, it’s premature to project what our paid absences will be by the end of the calendar year. However, based on current information available, there is the potential for further lowering the number of absences paid to somewhere in the range of three to four per month. Based on our projections, other policy changes, and changes in service level demands that may arise, we may need to reduce the number of paid absences over the next few months to reach this lower level by November.

The pandemic has caused uncertainty in so many ways and has affected so many, including our valued childcare providers. As always, we will do our best to be as transparent about our plans and communicate any changes to you as soon as we can. Thank you for your understanding and continued partnership with Denver Human Services.

Sincerely,

Denver Human Services
Provider Payment Services Team