



**Office of Communications**

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## **Changes to Developmental Disabilities Provider Requirements for New Applicants**

*The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) relies on its partnership with community-based providers across the state to deliver quality services to people with developmental disabilities.*

- For-profit and non-profit organizations who want to become providers of developmental disability services can state their interest to DBHDD in writing twice a year, in January and July.
- Providers who meet staff and business requirements are invited to complete the application process.
- Those providers who successfully complete the application process are then eligible to serve people with developmental disabilities in Georgia who receive services through Medicaid waivers.
- Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families (or guardians) choose from the pool of eligible providers. Becoming an eligible provider does not guarantee individuals will choose you to provide services to meet their needs.

*It's important that providers demonstrate the business acumen to remain viable in the future.*

- Providers must show that they have a realistic plan to meet their business expenses and remain successful.
- If a provider fails financially, especially a residential provider, individual consumers will have their lives disrupted.

*We have streamlined business requirements for providers. We've eliminated a large number of requirements that aren't predictive of a provider's success. We are now focusing on requirements that are most likely to affect an organizations ability to be successful.*

- Former Requirements:
  - Two weeks of training for top administrators;
  - Experience delivering the same or comparable kind of services for a minimum of one year prior to the Letter of Intent (LOI) submission;
  - A year of Medicaid billing experience;
  - License for CRA, CLS and Respite services are no longer due at the time of LOI submission;
  - Tax returns from for-profit providers;
  - Three months of operating expenses in liquid assets;
  - Requirement for providers to wait a minimum of 12 months to reapply after 2 failed attempts.

*All of the requirements listed above have been replaced with the following new requirements.*

- New Requirements:
  - The organization's director must have five years of experience, including two years of supervisory experience;
  - Applicants must submit a twelve-month pro forma budget;
  - Residential providers must provide a line of credit equal to three months of operating costs to ensure the provider has adequate risk capacity to provide continuity of care for the people they serve should there be a disruption in the funding stream;
  - Applicants who fail can immediately reapply during the next open enrollment period
  - Services that require a license, the provider has 6 months from the date of the invitation letter to submit the applicable licenses.

For more questions regarding DBHDD's changes to DD provider requirements contact the Provider Enrollment Unit at [mhddad-serviceapps@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:mhddad-serviceapps@dbhdd.ga.gov).