

QUALIFIED SERVICE PROVIDER - RATES AND RESTRICTIONS

A qualified service provider (QSP) is an individual or agency providing care and services for people to enable them to continue to live in their own homes and communities. There are two types of QSPs:

- An individual QSP needs to have competency in all the standards to provide a specific service. Individual QSPs are self-employed, independent contractors who are responsible to withhold or pay any Social Security, federal or state income tax, unemployment insurance, or workers' compensation insurance premiums from the payment received as a QSP.
- An agency QSP hires staff and is responsible for ensuring its staff has the skills necessary to provide a specific service. The agency QSP is also responsible for withholding or paying any Social Security, federal or state income tax, unemployment insurance, or workers' compensation insurance premiums relating to its employees.

To become enrolled as a QSP, an individual or agency must submit appropriate forms to the Department of Human Services. The department will provide the individual or agency with a provider number, instructions on how to bill for services provided, and rules for providing services as a QSP.

The department also provides the QSP with a form detailing the services the QSP is allowed to perform. The QSP may bill the individual who is provided care or the department for each 15-minute block of time during which services were provided. The QSP may not bill for time or expenses associated with travel because provider transportation is not considered a Medicaid benefit by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services would allow the Department of Human Services to increase the unit rate to account for overhead costs, such as time or expenses associated with travel; however, the department would need additional funding from the Legislative Assembly to implement the increase. The following is a summary of individual and agency QSP payment rates of the Department of Human Services in recent years:

	Individual Unit (15-Minute) Rate	Agency Unit (15-Minute) Rate
July 2007	\$3.29	\$4.68
July 2008	\$3.45	\$4.91
July 2009	\$3.92	\$5.47
July 2010	\$4.16	\$5.80
July 2011	\$4.28	\$5.97
July 2012	\$4.41	\$6.15