



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
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DHHS - Social Services Division Board Action

File #: 18-389

Commissioner Chad Brown - DHHS (Social Services Division) - To Request Permission to Increase the Rate per Hour for In-Home Aide Services to Serve the Senior Adults of Gaston County

STAFF CONTACT

Michael Coone - DHHS Social Services Division - 704-862-7663

BUDGET IMPACT

Utilizing existing grant funds. No additional County funds.

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND

On September 11, 2018, the Gaston County Home and Community Block Grant Committee approved a request to increase the reimbursement rate for In-Home Services from \$16.00 per hour to \$17.00 per hour. This request was made in an attempt to resolve a growing problem with underutilization of In-Home Aide services due to difficulty with staffing at contracting agencies. Agencies are unable to provide appropriate staff, particularly Certified Nursing Assistants, due to current job market. The DHHS Board approved this rate increase supported by the HCCBG Committee.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Signed request to the DHHS Board

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	JBrown	AFraley	BHovis	TKelgher	TPhillbeck	RWorley	Vote
2018-248	10/23/2018	TK	CB	A	A	AB	A	A	A	A	U

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A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS



GASTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

330 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way • Gastonia, North Carolina 28052
Phone 704-862-7540 • Fax 704-862-6777

Division of Social Services • Adult & Aging Services

September 19, 2018

MEMO

To: Gaston County Health & Human Services' Board

From: Michael Coone, Administrator of Adult & Aging Services

Re: Request for Approval to Raise Reimbursement Rate for In-Home Services' Contracts

On September 11, 2018, the Gaston County Home and Community Block Grant (HCCBG) Committee approved a request to increase the reimbursement rate for In-Home Services' Contracts from \$16.00 per hour to \$17.00 per hour.

This request was made by Adult & Aging Services (AAS) staff who are responsible for the provision of In-Home Aide Services to Gaston County seniors. This request was made in an attempt to resolve a growing problem with underutilization of In-Home Aide services due to difficulty with staffing at contracting agencies. Agencies are unable to provide appropriate staff for a number of clients who are eligible to be served. They report that it is a challenge for them to hire and retain qualified aides in the current job market; particularly Certified Nursing Assistants. In an effort to mitigate this problem and provide services to more eligible seniors, AAS staff requests the Health & Human Services' Board approve the rate increase supported by the HCCBG Committee. Expected benefits to the program resulting from this rate increase include:

- the ability to contract with an agency previously under contract that declined to continue their contract due to pricing. This agency provided a valuable resource to the program as they were able to staff the most difficult cases other agencies were unable to serve.
- flexibility for the contractors to increase wages to their aides to help them be more competitive in the current job market with regard to hiring and retaining aides.



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Division of Social Services • Adult & Aging Services

October 4, 2018

The Gaston County Health & Human Services' Board hereby approves the request by Adult & Aging Services staff to increase the contracted rate for the Home and Community Block Grant funded In-Home Aide Services to \$17.00 per hour effective October 1, 2018.

Chris C. Dobbins, MPH
Secretary, Health & Human Services' Board

Robert S. Browne, PE
Chair, Health & Human Services' Board