

CAREGIVER COMPENSATION

A factsheet on the need for ongoing funding for caregiver compensation in Utah

MEDICAID CAREGIVER COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Medicaid Caregiver Compensation Program is a **temporary** program option under the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency for parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities who are receiving home and community-based services from the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD). Prior to the program, parents and guardians could not be paid for their time providing care to their loved one with a disability. However, through a one-time appropriation from the Utah State Legislature, this service is being funded through the end of FY 2023.

OUTCOMES OF CAREGIVER COMPENSATION

- 729 Utahns used caregiver compensation in FY22.
- Average use of the service was between 25 and 30 hours per week per person
- This service has reportedly broadened options for families, increased access, given more choice in settings, and increased quality of life for both individuals in services and caregivers.
- **88%** of caregivers who used the service reported being satisfied with their overall quality of life; in comparison, only 55% of caregivers who did not use this service reported being satisfied.
- An overwhelming majority of caregivers reported feeling more secure in their housing, bills, food, and transportation situations because of the program.

ONGOING NEED FOR CAREGIVER COMPENSATION

While the caregiver compensation program has alleviated caregiving stressors for many Utah families, the need for ongoing funding to make this service permanent is vital.

Please support the appropriations request to provide ongoing funding for Caregiver Compensation.

INFORMATION FROM:

- The Utah State Department of Health and Human Services
- The Division of Services for People with Disabilities

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: Lisa Thornton
Email: Lisa@lisathorntonlaw.com

