April 7, 2020
TOPIC: Blind Services
COVID-19 Webinar Logistics

• Participants will be on mute the duration of the webinar.
• To submit questions during the webinar, please use the "Questions" function.
• If you would like to be unmuted during Q&A, use the “Raise Hand” function. Staff will indicate when you are unmuted.
Florida Division of Blind Services
Response to Community Rehabilitation Providers during COVID-19
May CRPs conduct business remotely?

Our first priority is the health and safety of all Floridians. To reduce the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19, FDOE has authorized CRPs to complete intake and assessments via phone, Skype or other electronic format.
Can hard copy signatures be substituted during this time?

Yes, electronic signatures will be accepted. Email submission of acceptance and understanding will also be accepted.

- **Consult Florida Statutes chapter 668.50 for guidance, definitions, and additional information.**
Will an emergency contract amendment be made?

- At this time, FDOE has not issued any amendments to contracts for services.
- We advise CRPs to follow the guidelines put forth by the state and county in which they reside.
- This is an ever-evolving situation, and we will remain in close contact to keep you apprised of any changes.
Will financial consequences be waived?

- FDOE will not impose financial consequences for state-funded programs for March or April 2020.
- For federally funded programs, we are awaiting written guidance from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, and we will let you know as soon as we have more information.
What is required to waive financial consequences?

- Submit request, with a plan for delivering services, during the COVID-19 crisis timeframe and detail the following:
  - Methods for virtual service delivery;
  - Plan to cancel any activities with more than 10 people in the same space; and
  - Updates to emergency protocols.
- CRPs are required to document service delivery in the AWARE CMS for client inactivity as outlined in the contract.
How should CRPs deliver services during this period?

- CRPs must maximize the use of distance instruction through April 30, 2020.
- We will revisit and reevaluate every 15 days, in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and direction from FDOH.
Service delivery (Cont.)

- For each client, CRPs should document inactivity that resulted from COVID-related cancelled activities.
- This documentation must be submitted to FDOE in AWARE.

*Attachment A, (E.) Role of the Contractor, section 8.vi.2*
Service delivery (Cont..)

- CRPs should follow up with active clients using each client’s preferred communication mode, to address needs, at least weekly.
- CRPs should make appropriate recommendations to update client service delivery and to provide documentation in AWARE.
For further information, please contact us

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http://dbs.myflorida.com/
For the latest COVID-19 Updates

www.floridahealthcovid19.gov

http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/index.stml