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§7–306.2.

(a) The Administration shall:

(1) Conduct an independent cost–driven, rate–setting study to set provider rates for community–based services that includes a rate analysis and an impact study that considers the actual cost of providing community–based services, including:

(i) The cost of transportation across all service types;

(ii) Appropriate wage and benefit levels for direct support and supervisory staff; and

(iii) Rates that incorporate the fiscal impact of absence days;

(2) Develop and implement a plan incorporating the findings of the rate–setting study conducted under item (1) of this subsection, including projected costs of implementation and recommendations to address any potential shortfall in funding;

(3) Develop a strategy for assessing the needs of an individual receiving services that conforms with the findings of the rate–setting study conducted under item (1) of this subsection;

(4) Provide for adequate working capital payments to providers;

(5) Develop a sound fiscal billing and payment system that is tested for adequacy and efficiency in payment of providers;

(6) Establish a payment schedule that ensures the timely and efficient reimbursement of providers for services provided; and

(7) Consult with stakeholders, including providers and individuals receiving services, in conducting the rate–setting study and developing the payment system required by this subsection.

(b) The Administration, on or before September 30, 2017, shall complete the study required under subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The Administration shall adopt regulations to implement the payment system required by this section.

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