



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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March 18, 2024

Stephanie Patrick, Chair  
New Hampshire Developmental Services Quality Council  
2 ½ Beacon Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
Sent via e-mail to [stephaniep@drcnh.org](mailto:stephaniep@drcnh.org)

Re: Access to Recreational Services for Adults and Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Dear Stephanie:

This letter serves as acknowledgement of your March 1, 2024, letter regarding the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance related to funding for recreational services. The Department of Health & Human Services (Department) appreciates the ongoing collaboration with the Quality Council and other stakeholders as we work collectively to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.


House Bill 1593 FN was introduced and passed by the New Hampshire House of Representatives Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs committee on February 22, 2024, with an ought to pass action. It is currently being heard by the New Hampshire House Finance Division III and will continue to make its way through the legislative process.

As has been shared, the Department has discussed access to recreational services with the CMS. As recently as February 2024, Jessica Gorton, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Developmental Services, was in contact with CMS to again ask if funding for recreational services can be considered as part of the 1915(c) waivers. To our knowledge, there has been no change to CMS' position that services that are diversional/recreational in nature fall outside the scope of these waivers.

We are hopeful that the Legislature, based on testimony provided by individuals and families, acknowledges the need for funding and that we can continue to work collaboratively to address the needs of those served by the developmental services system. As we get closer to the creation of the state fiscal year 2026-2027 budget, the Department will determine if it is feasible to request funding for recreational services as a prioritized need.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Gorton at 271-8942 or [Jessica.D.Gorton@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:Jessica.D.Gorton@dhhs.nh.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Christine L. Santaniello  
Associate Commissioner

Cc: Melissa Hardy  
Jessica Gorton