

LIFE PATTERNS INC.

Life Patterns Lowdown

Excess Funds—Policy Changes

Changes to Excess Funds – The State of Kansas and Disability Advocacy groups have worked hard to increase self-direction wages to be competitive with other industries. During the process of calculating excess funds for 2022, it was noticed that several employers had not increased their employee's rate of pay to reflect the intent of the increases.

We have received and are required to respond to surveys from Legislators regarding how the rate increases are utilized and if employee's hourly rates been increased. The amount of excess funds for 2022 was excessive.

The process to calculate and distribute excess funds before the end of the year is significant and at a very hectic time of year. Life Patterns believes that it is important to use the established rates for maximum impact and not as a savings account for excessively large end-of year bonuses.

We understand that many employers prefer to pay at slightly less than the maximum rate so that a probationary raise can be given, we fully support this practice. However, going forward, Life Patterns will not calculate excess funds for employers that are not paying employees at the maximum rates (or within reason). Excess funds greater than the maximum pay rate will automatically be returned to the State of Kansas.

In this issue:

- * Excess Funds
- * W-2 Forms
- * Policy Status & Update
- * Notice 2014-7
- * WIP Update
- * Kansas Ombudsman
- * Holiday Hours

W-2 Forms

W-2s were mailed January 26th. If your employees have not received their 2022 W-2 they should contact either office to confirm their current address.

We require a change of address form to be completed and returned before we will mail to a different address.

The first reprint of W-2s will happen February 17th. We will reprint and mail every Friday after February 17th.

Policy & Exception Update

Waiver rewrites are still waiting on CMS Approval. More information can be found on KDADS' website at www.kdads.ks.gov

COVID Exceptions Emergency Order are still in place for the moment. Once the state puts an end date on it, members will have six months to get back into compliance with KDADS' current policies.

Tax information—Notice 2014 –7

This is not new information, but likely applies to some of our families. Back in 2014, this notice was to provide information on how the federal income tax was to treat certain payments to individual care providers under state Medicaid HCBS Waivers for reporting requirements. It states that some payments may be excludable from income. Please talk to your tax preparer to see if you are eligible to exclude your income for the 2022 Tax Year from Federal Income tax.

Worker Incentive Program

Time is rapidly running out to pay your employees the Workforce Incentive Program bonuses. All funds must be paid out before March, 31st. We have been granted an exception to waive the two month employment requirement so if you hire someone in February or March let us know ASAP so that we can get them paid.

KanCare—Ombudsman

Kansas Medicaid can be hard to understand and navigate. The KanCare Ombudsman Office can help with any issues. The office can help with the following:

- ◇ Answers to questions
- ◇ Resolving issues
- ◇ Understanding letters or forms from KanCare
- ◇ Completing an application or renewal
- ◇ Filing a complaint (grievance)
- ◇ Filing an appeal or fair hearing
- ◇ Learning about Services

Contact Info:

Toll Free: 1-855-643-8180

Email: KanCare.Ombudsman.ks.gov

Website: www.KanCareOmbudsman.ks.gov

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, February 13th
&
Monday, February 20th

