

**Community Networking: Service-Individual H2015; Group H2015 HQ; Class and Conference-
H2015U1; Transportation - H2015U2**

Community Networking services provide individualized day activities that support the waiver beneficiary's definition of a meaningful day in an integrated community setting, with persons who are not disabled. If the beneficiary requires paid supports to participate / engage once connected with the activity, Community Networking can be used to refer and link the individual. This service is provided separate and apart from the beneficiary's primary private residence, other residential living arrangement, and/or the home of a service provider. These services do not take place in licensed facilities and are intended to offer the beneficiary the opportunity to develop meaningful community relationships with non-disabled individuals. Services are designed to promote maximum participation in community life while developing natural supports within integrated settings. Community Networking services enable the beneficiary to increase or maintain their capacity for independence and develop social roles valued by non-disabled members of the community. As the beneficiary gain skills and increase community connections, service hours may fade.

Community Networking services consist of:

- a. Participation in adult education (College, Vocational Studies, and other educational opportunities);
- b. Development of community-based time management skills;
- c. Community-based classes for the development of hobbies or leisure/cultural interests;
- d. Volunteer work;
- e. Participation in formal/informal associations and/or community groups;
- f. Training and education in self-determination and self-advocacy;
- g. Using public transportation;
- h. Inclusion in a broad range of community settings that allow the beneficiary to make community connections;
- i. For children, staffing supports are covered to assist children to participate in day care/after school summer programs that serve typically developing children and are not funded by Day Supports;
- j. Payment for attendance at classes and conferences is also included.
- k. Payment for memberships can be covered when the beneficiary participates in an integrated class; and
- l. Transportation, when the activity does not include staffing support and the destination of the transportation is an integrated community setting or a self-advocacy activity. Payments for transportation are an established per trip charge or mileage.

This service includes a combination of training, personal assistance and supports as needed by the beneficiary during activities. Transportation to/from the beneficiary's residence and the training site(s) is covered.

Payment for attendance at classes and conferences is also covered..

Exclusions

This does not cover the cost of hotels, meals, materials or transportation while attending conferences.

This service does not cover activities that would normally be a component of a beneficiary's home/residential life or services.

This service does not pay day care fees or fees for other childcare related activities.

The waiver beneficiary may not volunteer for the Community Networking service provider.

Volunteering may not be done at locations that would not typically have volunteers (that is, hair salon or florist) or in positions that would be paid positions if performed by an individual that was not on the waiver.

This service may not duplicate or be furnished/claimed at the same time of day as Day Supports, Community Living and Support, Residential Supports, Respite, Supported Employment or one of the State Plan Medicaid services that works directly with the beneficiary.

For a beneficiary who is eligible for educational services under the Individuals With Disability Educational Act, Community Networking does not cover transportation to/from school settings. (Transportation to/from beneficiary's home or any community location where the beneficiary may be receiving services before/after school is covered for this service.)

This service does not pay for overnight programs of any kind.

Classes that offer one-to-one instruction are not covered.

Classes that are in a nonintegrated community setting are not covered.

Limits on amount, frequency, or duration

Payment for attendance at classes and conferences cannot exceed \$1,000/ per beneficiary plan year. The amount of community networking services is subject to the "Limits on Sets of Services."

Service Delivery Method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provider Directed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family Directed
Specify whether the service may be provided by (check all that apply):	<input type="checkbox"/> Legally Responsible Person <input type="checkbox"/> Relative <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian

Provider Type

Employee in a beneficiary-directed arrangement

License

Certification

Other Standard

- Agency staff that work with beneficiaries:**
- a. Comply with NC G.S.122C as applicable
 - b. Approved by Employer of Record or recommended by Managing Employer and approved by Agency with Choice
 - c. Are at least 18 years old
 - d. If providing transportation, have a valid North Carolina or other valid driver's license, a safe driving record and an acceptable level of automobile liability insurance
 - e. Criminal background checks present no health and safety risk to beneficiary
 - f. Not listed in the North Carolina Health Care Abuse Registry
 - g. Qualified in CPR and First Aid
 - h. Qualified in the customized needs of the beneficiary as described in the ISP
 - i. High school diploma or high school equivalency (GED)

- j. Paraprofessionals providing this service must be supervised by a qualified professional. Supervision must be provided according to supervision requirements specified in 10A NCAC 27G.0204 (b) (c) (f) and according to licensure or certification requirements of the appropriate discipline.
- k. Supervised by the Employer of Record and the Managing Employer
- l. For service directed by the Agency with Choice, paraprofessionals providing this service must be supervised by a qualified professional. Supervision must be provided according to supervision requirements specified in 10A NCAC 27G.0204 (b) (c) (f) and according to licensure or certification requirements of the appropriate discipline.
- m. State Nursing Board Regulations must be followed for tasks that present health and safety risks to the beneficiary as directed by the PIHP Medical Director or Assistant Medical Director
- n. Agencies with Choice follow the NC State Nursing Board regulations
- o. Upon enrollment with the PIHP, the Agency with Choice must have achieved national accreditation with at least one of the designated accrediting agencies.
- p. The Agency with Choice must be established as a legally constituted entity capable of meeting all of the requirements of the PIHP.

Professional Competency

By 11/1/2018, Support Professionals have competency in the following areas:

- a. Communication- The Support Professional builds trust and productive relationships with people he/she supports, co-workers and others through respectful and clear verbal and written communication.
- b. Person-Centered Practices-The Support Professional uses person-centered practices, assisting individuals to make choices and plan goals, and provides services to help individuals achieve their goals.
- c. Evaluation and Observation-The Support Professional closely monitors an individual’s physical and emotional health, gathers information about the individual, and communicates observations to guide services.
- d. Crisis Prevention and Intervention-The Support Professional identifies risk and behaviors that can lead to a crisis, and uses effective strategies to prevent or intervene in the crisis in collaboration with others.
- e. Professionalism and Ethics-The Support Professional works in a professional and ethical manner, maintaining confidentiality and respecting individual and family rights.
- f. Health and Wellness-The Support Professional plays a vital role in helping individuals’ to achieve and maintain good physical and emotional health essential to their well-being.
- g. -Community Inclusion and Networking-The Support Professional helps individuals to be a part of the community through valued roles and relationships, and assists individuals with major transitions that occur in community life.
- h. Cultural Competency-The Support Professional respects cultural differences, and provides services and supports that fit with an individual’s preferences.
- i. Education, Training and Self-Development-The Support Professional obtains and maintains necessary certifications and seeks opportunities to improve their skills and work practices through further education and training.

Provider Type

Provider Agencies Approved as a provider in the PIHP provider network

Agency staff that work with beneficiaries:

- a. Are at least 18 years old
- b. If providing transportation, have a valid North Carolina or other valid driver’s license, a safe driving record and an acceptable level of automobile liability insurance

- c. Criminal background checks present no health and safety risk to beneficiary
- d. Not listed in the North Carolina Health Care Abuse Registry
- e. Qualified in CPR and First Aid
- f. Staff that work with beneficiaries must be qualified in the customized needs of the beneficiary as described in the ISP
- g. High school diploma or high school equivalency (GED)

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Upon enrollment with the PIHP, the organization must have achieved national accreditation with at least one of the designated accrediting agencies.

The organization must be established as a legally constituted entity capable of meeting all of the requirements of the PIHP.