



## Ligas Oversight Committee Guidehouse Rate Calculator FAQs

December 13, 2023

### **What is the status of the Ligas Oversight Committee?**

The Ligas Oversight Committee was reconvened on October 5, 2023, to discuss the proposed reduction in Direct Support Professional (DSP) staff hours announced in the beginning of 2023 as a result of implementation of the CILA Rate Calculator developed by the Guidehouse consulting team engaged by the state of Illinois. The Committee met again on November 15, 2023, and was asked to consider 3 proposals for implementation of the CILA Rate Calculator, all of which result in a **significant reduction of DSP hours** (9% of total DSP staff hours) in the community CILA system.

### **Why is Guidehouse recommending a reduction in DSP hours?**

The Ligas Oversight Committee has been told that Guidehouse believes there are more DSP hours currently in the CILA system than are necessary to support people receiving services. This assumption seems to be based on state claims that DSP hours were artificially inflated over the years (although the Oversight Committee has received no specific details on this practice), and suspicion regarding the accuracy of assessment scores reflecting the CILA population's support needs profile.

### **Did the Oversight Committee expect to see a reduction in DSP hours?**

Ligas Oversight Committee members have confirmed they did not expect to see a reduction in overall DSP hours but rather a redistribution of existing DSP hours across the system.

### **We have heard CILA providers have open DSP positions; can't those positions just be eliminated with no impact to people in CILA settings?**

**NO!** While some CILA providers do have vacant DSP positions, that doesn't mean they can reduce DSP staffing in CILA settings. Rather, vacant DSP positions are being filled by existing DSP staff working overtime, supervisory personnel, temporary agency staffing or other approaches, all of which cost more than the hourly reimbursement paid by the state. If DSP hours are reduced, there will be a catastrophic impact on people in CILA settings, whose dependence on DSP support does not change because hours are reduced, as well as CILA provider organizations who will continue to incur the expense of current DSP staffing levels but without the revenue to do so. As a concrete example, if a 3<sup>rd</sup> shift DSP position is open, that position cannot just go unfilled. Instead, it is likely being filled by a current DSP working overtime at 1.5x the rate the agency receives for the vacant position.

### **CILA providers are receiving an additional \$2.50/hour increase in 2024 for DSP reimbursement; can't they just use that money to make up for a reduction in overall DSP hours?**

**NO!** CILA providers are required to pass along the full \$2.50/hour increase to existing DSP staff. They cannot reduce increases to existing staff to make up for a reduction in overall DSP hours. Further, with the upcoming increase in statewide minimum wage, CILA providers must increase DSP wages to stay competitive with other employers in their communities.

### **Will a reduction in CILA DSP hours impact the state's goal of moving people out of SODC settings?**

Many providers have expressed grave concern regarding the impact of any reduction in DSP hours on people presently receiving CILA services, as well as those seeking to enter the CILA system.

### **Have DSP hours been reduced?**

Not yet, the state has announced several postponements in the timeframe for implementing the reduction in DSP hours. Most recently, the state announced a further postponement of any final action until 3/31/24.

### **Do families or CILA providers know how they will be affected by any change in DSP hours?**

No. The state is preparing summary information on the impact, but this has not been shared with providers or families. Without this detail no one knows precisely how they will be impacted, however it is assumed that a 9% reduction in overall DSP hours will have a deep and far-reaching impact on the entire community system.

### **What is the profile of people in CILA settings?**

40% of people in CILA settings have support and supervision needs classified as Total/Extensive Personal Care and Intense/Constant Supervision. Approximately 35% of the CILA population is aged 60+. This profile has changed dramatically since the inception of the CILA program nearly 30 years ago when the significantly smaller CILA population had less intense support needs. Several factors account for the current CILA needs profile including the closure of 2 SODCs and transfer of those residents into CILA settings, the increase in incidence of people significantly impacted by autism spectrum disorders, the aging of the CILA population and the introduction of the Home Base Services program where many people with less intensive support needs are served and which did not exist when CILA was begun. While CILA providers who are intimately involved with the people they support are not surprised by the increasing needs of the CILA population, those less involved with and exposed to people in CILA settings, including Guidehouse, have expressed disbelief that the DSP hours currently allocated are an essential minimum to ensure the safety and well-being of people receiving CILA services.