



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

KYLE L. JANEK, MD
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

January 27, 2014

To: Community Based Alternatives Assisted Living Providers
Day Activity and Health Services Providers
Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities Providers
Nursing Facility Providers
Residential Care Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 14-02
2013 Cost Report and Training Requirements

Dear Providers:

Each contracted provider is required to submit financial and statistical information through a 2013 Cost Report for each contract held with the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). It is the responsibility of each contracted provider to submit an accurate cost report, completed in accordance with all applicable instructions and rules, to ensure fair and equitable determination of reasonable payment rates.

This letter contains information on 2013 cost reporting and training requirements for the following programs: Community Based Alternatives Assisted Living (CBA AL), Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS), Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD), Nursing Facility (NF), and Residential Care (RC).

There are no cost report materials included with this letter. All required documents can be found and downloaded from the Health and Human Services (HHSC) Rate Analysis Department (RAD) website at the web address indicated in the **Rate Analysis Website** section below.

AUTOMATED COST REPORTING & EVALUATION SYSTEM (ACRES)

Providers are required to prepare their 2013 cost report using the ACRES data entry software. The ACRES Data Entry Manual and software can be downloaded from the HHSC RAD website, noted below. Please refer to the "Automated Cost Reporting" section of the website for more information about the ACRES Data Entry software.

2013 COST REPORT DUE DATE

The electronic copy of your 2013 ACRES cost report and all required supporting documentation are both due to HHSC RAD no later than April 24, 2014.

Please note that this notification letter is being distributed later than the customary December 31st date. As a result, the usual cost report due date of March 31, 2014, is being extended for the 2013 cost reports so as to be 90 days from the date of this notification letter to comply with requirements in our cost reporting rules.

The electronic cost report must be e-mailed as directed in the ACRES Data Entry Manual while the supporting documentation must be received at one of the two addresses indicated below by the due date:

Regular Mail:

Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Rate Analysis Department, Mail Code H-400
P.O. Box 149030
Austin, Texas 78714-9030

Overnight/Courier Delivery:

Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Rate Analysis Department, Mail Code H-400
4900 N. Lamar
Austin, Texas 78757-2316

PREPARER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2013 COST REPORT

In accordance with Title 1 of the Texas Administrative Code Section 355.102(d), it is the responsibility of each provider to ensure that each cost report preparer who signs the Cost Report Methodology Certification completes the required HHSC-sponsored cost report training.

Preparers must complete cost report training for every program for which a cost report is submitted. Such training is required every other year for the odd-year cost report in order for the preparer to be qualified to complete both that odd-year cost report and the following even-year cost report.

To sign as the Preparer of a 2013 Cost Report for a specific program, the preparer must either: 1) have attended an on-site classroom-based general training and a separate program-specific training for that program's 2013 cost report and received a 2013 Mandatory Cost Report Training Certificate; or 2) successfully completed that program's online cost report training and received a 2013 Mandatory Cost Report Training Certificate for both the general online training and the program-specific online training. Cost report preparers may be employees of the provider or persons who have been contracted by the provider for the purpose of cost report preparation. **NO EXEMPTIONS** from the cost report training requirements will be granted.

ON-SITE CLASSROOM-BASED TRAINING SESSIONS

The sessions for each program will consist of one half day of general training (see the Training Registration section below) and one half day of program-specific training. All first-time cost report training registrants **MUST** attend an on-site classroom-based general training session and a program-specific training for each program for which they will submit a cost report. Preparers who have ever attended an on-site classroom-based cost report training session for a specific program do not have the option of again attending an on-site classroom-based training for that specific program, with the exception of DBMD; but instead **MUST** complete the HHSC-sponsored online cost report training (see the Online Training section below). Upon completion of the on-site classroom-based general training session and the program-specific training session, each first-time registrant will receive a training certificate for the general and program-specific session attended. There is no online training available for the DBMD program; all preparers of DBMD reports must attend on-site classroom-based training.

Each half-day on-site classroom general session will provide an in-depth discussion of the Cost Determination Process Rules, including the cost determination process, the cost-reporting process, accrual accounting, direct costing, employee benefits/insurance, depreciation, related-party transactions, and documentation requirements. The program-specific training will be geared to each specific program providing an opportunity to focus on program expertise. The sessions will also provide a review of the 2013 cost report, including cost-reporting issues specifically related to the program, cost allocation, allowable and unallowable costs and deficiencies noted during the review and audit of cost reports from previous years. All 2013 cost report on-site classroom-based training sessions are held in Austin. The next upcoming training is scheduled for February 25, 2014. Refer to the **Training Registration** section of this letter for directions on accessing the training schedule as well as registration information.

In the case of inclement weather, updates about the training session will be recorded and available 24-hours a day on the Training Registration Help Line at (512) 730-7402.

ONLINE TRAINING

Preparers for all programs, except DBMD, who have ever attended an on-site classroom-based cost report training session for a specific program **MUST** complete the HHSC-sponsored online cost report training for that specific program and do not have the option of again attending on-site classroom-based training for that specific program. DBMD preparers must attend onsite classroom-based training. Online training is required every other year for the odd-year cost report in order for the preparer to be qualified to complete both that odd-year cost report and the following even-year cost report. The 2013 Cost Report Training Certificates will be issued to those preparers who complete the General and the Program-Specific online training.

Online training for the 2013 Cost Reports became available to qualified preparers December 1, 2013, and will remain available through October 31, 2014.

The cost to register for online training is \$24.00 for the general training and \$24.00 for each program-specific training to be paid at the time of registration to the contractor selected by HHSC to provide the training. HHSC will not collect or receive any funds for providing the training services. HHSC will post additional information regarding online training on the HHSC RAD website.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

For each on-site classroom-based training, there will be 4.0 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit given for Certified Public Accountants (CPA) and .40 Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits given for Social Workers. There will be No CPE credit given for CPAs and No CEU credits given for Social Workers for completion of the online program-specific training sessions.

TRAINING REGISTRATION

Online Training:

Registration is through the contractor selected by HHSC to provide the training. HHSC will post additional information regarding online training registration on the HHSC RAD website.

On-Site Classroom-Based Training:

Training reservations will be accepted by online registration only. Reservations will not be accepted by telephone, fax or e-mail. To register for training, go to the HHSC RAD website at the web address indicated in the Rate Analysis Website section below to access the training schedule and information on how to complete the online registration form.

Seating is limited for all on-site classroom-based sessions and registration will be accepted on a "*first-come, first-served*" basis. Within five working days of receipt of your online registration form, HHSC RAD will e-mail to you a confirmation letter for each session for which you registered. The confirmation e-mail will include your confirmation number, along with information concerning the training site location. If you do not receive your confirmation e-mail within five working days, please contact the Training Registration Help Line at (512) 730-7402 or via e-mail at: costreporttrain@hhsc.state.tx.us. If you are unable to attend a session for which you are registered or you need to make changes to your registration, please notify HHSC RAD at the above telephone number or e-mail address.

RATE ANALYSIS WEBSITE

The HHSC RAD website contains program-specific cost report instructions, cost report training information and materials, payment rates, RAD staff contact information and web links for online

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training, on-site classroom training registration, and automated cost reporting. Additional information and features are added periodically. We encourage you to visit our website at:

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/rad/index.shtml>

RESOURCES

If you have any questions or need additional information related to the proper completion of the cost report, please contact the Rate Analyst for your specific program. You can locate your Rate Analyst's contact information at: <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/rad/long-term-svcs/contacts.shtml>

If you need assistance registering for on-site classroom-based training, please contact the Training Registration Help Line at (512) 730-7402, or by e-mail at costreporttrain@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Ray Wilson
Director, Cost Reporting
HHSC Rate Analysis Department

RW:bk