



Bulletin Title: Community Support Services Authorization Criteria Rulemaking

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Effective Date: March 5, 2026

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers of a forthcoming rulemaking impacting Community Support services.

The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is reassessing the behavioral health service continuum to improve quality of care and move the public behavioral health system towards integrated, whole-person care. This includes shifting the system away from a reliance on Community Support services – a non-clinical service delivered primarily by unlicensed staff intended to supplement clinical care by assisting consumers with activities of daily living – and toward clinical services. To meet this objective, on August 15, 2025, the Department published an initial [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) in the *District of Columbia Register* at 72 DCR 009018, establishing authorization criteria for Community Support services. On September 3, 2025, DBH published [Bulletin 155: DLA-20 Requirements for Community Support Services](#), which notified stakeholders of the Department’s intent to include additional Community Support services authorization criteria as part of this rulemaking. In response to public comments and stakeholder feedback on the criteria, DBH included the following amendments in a Second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to be published on March 6, 2026.

1. Criteria I

To qualify for Community Support services, a consumer must have at least one of the following primary diagnoses as documented by their most recent diagnostic assessment:

1. Schizophrenia or Other Psychotic Disorders (including Schizoaffective Disorders);
2. Delusional Disorders;
3. Affective Disorders (including Major Depressive Disorder and Bipolar Disorder);
4. Trauma-Related Disorders;
5. Obsessive Compulsive Disorder;
6. Personality Disorders; or
7. Anxiety-Related Disorders.

2. Criteria II

Recognizing DBH consumers’ varying acuity levels and attendant needs, DBH is proposing to link the number of Community Support service units that a consumer would be eligible to receive in a one-hundred and eighty (180) day period to their functional assessment score. Specifically:

Community Support Units by Functional Assessment Score

DLA-20 Score	CAFAS/PECFAS Score	CSS Units/180 Days	Hours/180 Days	Impairment Level/Justification
1.0-3.0	120+	0	0	Score denotes that mental health symptoms present severe and persistent impairments in daily living activities/functioning. Consumers should be referred to a higher level of care.
3.1-4.0	80-110	200	50	Score denotes that mental health symptoms present serious impairments and major impact on daily living activities/functioning.
4.1-5.0	50-70	100	25	Score denotes that mental health symptoms present moderate impairments in daily living activities/functioning.
5.1+	0-40	0	0	Mental health symptoms present minimal impairment in daily functioning. Consumer may be served in a lower level of care.

All persons desiring to comment on the subject matter of this proposed rule should file comments in writing not later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of the proposed rules in the *District of Columbia Register*. **Comments must be submitted to dbh.policy@dc.gov by 04/05/26.**

Please contact Mia Olsen, Interim Deputy Director, Data, Quality, and Compliance, mia.olsen2@dc.gov, with questions about this bulletin.