

**From:** Karen Shoemaker <kshoemaker@arcoflehighnorthampton.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 1:04 PM  
**To:** Ahrens, Kristin; Smith, Rick  
**Cc:** '(jmeikrantz@arcofchestercounty.org)'; 'Mia Bartoletti'; Patrick Kreshock; Kristy Pollock  
**Subject:** [External] Additional information for AWC responses

**ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA\_SPAM@pa.gov.

Good afternoon Kristin and Rick,

I am forwarding an additional recommendation that I inadvertently left off of our submission last Friday.

We recommend that ODP eliminate the benefit allowance set of rates and simplify things for everyone involved by having one set of rates. If ODP is willing to do that, they could add the \$2.10 to the wage ranges and increase the rates by \$2.10. This is in addition to the other recommended \$ additions to correct the rates that do not cover what AWC providers need to pay SSPs. It is important to note that the \$2.10 would need to be added to both the wage ranges and the rates. The benefit allowance has typically been used by MEs to pay above the wage range rather than to cover benefits, etc. In addition, the only value that it brings is for the PFDS participants who want to drive more hours by having a slightly lower per unit bill rate so they can maximize their cap.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need further information about this recommendation.

Thank you,  
Karen



**Karen L. Shoemaker, Chief Executive Officer**  
*The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties*

2289 Avenue A Bethlehem, PA 18017

Phone: [610-849-8076](tel:610-849-8076) Ext: 311

Mobile: [610-704-3879](tel:610-704-3879)

Fax: [610-849-6202](tel:610-849-6202)

E-mail: [kshoemaker@arcoflehighnorthampton.org](mailto:kshoemaker@arcoflehighnorthampton.org)

Website: <http://www.arcoflehighnorthampton.org/>

*Achieve with us.*

**DISCLAIMER:** This electronic e-mail message, and any attachments transmitted with it, contains confidential information, intended only for the named addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, distribution, copying or disclosure of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender by reply e-mail, and delete all copies of this communication from your computer and network. Thank you.

