

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Aging and Long-Term Support Administration PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

November 16, 2022

ALTSA: ESF #2022-037 CR-102 (FORMAL PHASE) AND CR-103E (EMERGENCY RULES) FILED TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENT FOR TRAINING AND HOME CARE AIDE CERTIFICATION

Dear ESF Provider:

The Department of Social and Health Services (department) filed emergency rules (WSR 22-22-061) on October 28, 2022, to amend WAC 388-107-0630 regarding deadlines for completing the home care aide training and certification. The department also filed a CR-102 (WSR 22-22-044) on October 26, 2022, to formally propose rules for permanent adoption. Links to the CR-102 and proposed rule language are available on ALTSA's Enhanced Services Facilities webpage under "ESF Rule Filings".

During the COVID-19 pandemic, this rule was suspended under Governor's Proclamation 20-10 to allow enhanced services facilities to hire home care aides who could not meet the training requirements of chapter 388-112A WAC, which was also suspended. The Governor's Proclamation is no longer in effect. The department has adopted rules in chapter 388-112A WAC to establish timelines for home care aides hired during the COVID-19 pandemic to complete training and certification. The proposed amendment to WAC 388-107-0630 will align enhanced services facilities requirements with the newly adopted requirements in chapter 388-112A WAC. The emergency rules took effect on October 28 and allow facilities to continue to employ the affected caregivers while the permanent rulemaking process is completed.

You may either submit comments virtually at the public hearing listed below or in writing to the department's Rules and Policies Assistance Unit (RPAU.)

The public hearing for the proposed rules is scheduled for:

Date: December 6, 2022, at 10:00 AM

Location: This hearing will be held virtually. You can find call-in information and the

virtual meeting link HERE.

You must submit written comments by 5:00 PM on December 6, to the following address or by email to DSHSRPAURulesCoodinator@dshs.wa.gov:

DSHS Rules Coordinator/RPAU PO Box 45850 Olympia, WA 98504

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have questions, please contact Sondra Haas, ESF Policy Program Manager, Sondra.Haas@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"