STATE OF NEW YORK

2594

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to additional state payment assistance

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 213 to read as follows:

§ 213. Additional state payment assistance. 1. If there is no agreement in effect for federal administration of additional state payments pursuant to section two hundred eleven of this title, the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability assistance shall be responsible for providing assistance to applicants for or recipients of such payments as it relates to applying for, modifying or maintaining such benefits in order to ensure maximum participation by eligible individuals. The commissioner shall contract with one or more not-for-profit providers that have relevant experience with serving individuals with disabilities and, availability and accessibility to this particular population for the purpose of providing such assistance in accordance with this section.

2. Such assistance shall include, but not be limited to: (a) assisting with meeting eligibility requirements including gathering documentation which may be necessary to determine eligibility or the appropriate level of benefits; (b) explaining relevant documentation as it relates to an individual's benefit to help ensure individuals understand their benefits and are receiving the appropriate level of benefits; (c) assisting individuals to access the fair hearing process by securing any necessary documentation and providing referrals for legal advocacy; (d) providing the option of in person assistance and when necessary, providing such assistance at the individual's residence or other appropriate locations, such as a hospital; and (e) identifying eligible individuals who are not

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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receiving such benefits and conducting outreach to provide them with information and assistance as described in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this subdivision to secure and maintain such benefits and identifying systemic barriers encountered by individuals with disabilities applying for and maintaining such benefits. Such not-for-profit provider shall report on such findings on an annual basis to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and the chairs of the assembly and senate standing committee on social services, with the initial report to be provided on January first, two thousand twenty-two.

3. To the extent necessary and appropriate to facilitate and effectuate the requirements of this title, such not-for-profit provider shall coordinate and cooperate with the federal social security administration as it pertains to individuals for which they are providing services as required by this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.