



An Opportunity Knocks program message

Friday, October 6, 2023

Dear OK Families:

We hope that this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying the season turning from summer to fall. We are writing to inform you about some upcoming transitions related to the organization and some specific impact on the framework of OK Programs.

First and foremost, we want to express our gratitude for your ongoing support and commitment to the growth and development of your Warrior in OK Programs. Your dedication has played a crucial role in creating a safe, supportive and empowered environment.

With this letter, we hope to provide some clear and transparent communication about the changes that are coming and why we believe they are essential. We will provide a summary of our plans to pursue state licensure for community day services and residential support services. We will also articulate our plans to increase program fees and expand OK Program's offerings. Lastly, we are sharing an invitation to you and your family to join us for an Open House at the end of October.

We recognize that change can be a challenge. We approach this moment thoughtfully with reverence and respect. Please read on and learn more about what is to come.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in this incredible journey of Opportunity Knocks. With your support, our mission thrives. With your support, we can continue to innovate and collaborate as a co-creator of programs, enterprise, and partnerships that contribute to developing a safe and welcoming community where people with different abilities are fully included and able to live, work, learn, grow and pursue a life of their design.

Gratefully Yours,

Mike Carmody & Kim Meares

Opportunity Knocks



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STATE LICENSURE STRATEGY

As an organization, we have made a decision to pursue state licensure. We are approaching that decision collectively, accounting for our long-term mission goals of sustaining **BOTH** community day services and residential support services.

We will take the next steps in the process toward licensure in November. With the information we have now, we are uncertain about the timeline to complete this process.

We recognize that being a private-pay program has created some barriers to participation. Accessibility from a resource standpoint is a high-priority motivation in this decision. Additionally, we have observed that the state is making investments in the division of developmental disabilities that make licensure and the administration of that license more sensible and sustainable. This also motivates us and gives us optimism.

Due to State of Illinois rules and regulations, we are not able to pursue licensure for both varieties of service at the same time. Because of that restriction, we were inspired to explore the prospects of building a creative **NEW** partnership that would help us move the residential phase forward while also applying for the community day service provider licensure. We expect to be prepared to deliver much more detail on this topic at our open house at the end of the month.

PROGRAM FEES

Fall Session #2 begins on October 30, 2023. There will be a fee increase effective at the start of that session. We understand that any change in fees can be challenging. We respect that challenge and approach this decision with that respect. We have carefully considered this decision and find no other way forward. It is our unwavering commitment to providing the highest quality program and ensuring the sustainability of that quality that has led us to make this adjustment. We have worked hard over the years to limit the growth of program fees. It is important to note, we have not increased fees since 2017.

The fee increase is necessary to maintain and enhance all aspects of Opportunity Knocks Programs, including meaningful compensation for staff, curriculum development, community partnership development, and ongoing improvements to our facility, equipment and resources. Additionally, we are making a general adjustment for the substantial increase in inflation that we've seen these past few years. With this program fee increase, we feel confident in our ability to continue offering high quality programs that engage every Warrior.

Please see below for a breakdown of the changes in rates. We have made every effort to keep the increase as reasonable as possible while still ensuring the sustainability and growth of OK Programs. We understand that financial considerations are significant, and we want to assure you that we



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remain committed to working with you to consider financial hardship and construct sustainable agreements to overcome hardship.

For current agreements already in place, you will continue to be billed at the current rate of your agreement through the end of the calendar year. New agreements will be established before the end of the 2023 calendar year.

****See final page/attachment for new fee scale****

PROGRAM EXPANSION

In the next 12 months, we will continue the path forward to expanding the OK Program's Platform. When the mission is complete, we will be offering full-day programming and PM blocks on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Currently, we are offering a full-day option + PM block on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Beginning with the next session, which launches on Oct. 31st, you'll see the extended day as available for Tuesday. We will follow suit with Fridays in 2024. Please reference the program registration launch details that will be sent on Monday, Oct. 9 for more information.

OK PROGRAMS FEE SCHEDULE (2023-2024)							
PROGRAM FEES TABLE FOR 8-WEEK SESSION (3-Hour Block Registration)							
Annual Household Income	Total Program hours/block	Total program blocks/week	Total program blocks/session	Total program hours/session	Cost per hr	Cost per block	Cost per Session
Tier 1	3	1	8	24	\$17.00	\$51.00	\$408.00
Tier 2	3	1	8	24	\$14.00	\$42.00	\$336.00
Tier 3	3	1	8	24	\$11.00	\$33.00	\$264.00
Tier 4	3	1	8	24	\$8.00	\$24.00	\$192.00
PROGRAM FEES TABLE FOR 8-WEEK SESSION (Full-Day Registration)							
Annual Household Income	Total Program	Total program	Total program	Total program	Cost per hr	Cost per day	Cost per Session



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	hours/day	days/week	days/session	hours/session			
Tier 1	6	1	8	48	\$17.00	\$102.00	\$816.00
Tier 2	6	1	8	48	\$14.00	\$84.00	\$672.00
Tier 3	6	1	8	48	\$11.00	\$66.00	\$528.00
Tier 4	6	1	8	48	\$8.00	\$48.00	\$384.00

	Current Rate Structure	New Rate Structure
Hourly Rate	\$15	\$17
Fee per 3-Hour Block	\$45	\$51
Session Fee per Block	\$360	\$408
Fee per Full-Day	\$82	\$102
Full Session per Day	\$660	\$816

Current Rate Structure est. in 2017