

Frequently Asked Questions for OASAS, OMH, OPWDD 2020 Quarter 3 & 4 Withhold

Updated: 10/8/2020

1. Q: What is the difference between a funding Cut and a Withhold?

A: *Withhold* is considered a pre-emptive “hold” on funds. In this case, it was a “hold” Q3 and Q4 advance funds. A *Cut* is permanent reduction in funding. OASAS, OMH, and OPWDD have advised, “*if the State receives sufficient Federal relief to address the budget gaps,*” provider agencies can “*expect to restore these funds through a supplemental payment.*”

2. Q: Is this Withhold a permanent cut?

A: No. OASAS, OMH, and OPWDD have noted this is a *Withhold* of the 2020-Q3 payment, not a permanent funding cut at this time.

3. Q: Will the Q3 Withhold continue for Q4?

A: The LGU has received word that this withhold will continue for Q4.

4. Q: Does this Withhold necessitate a change in the existing contract with the County?

A: No. Part 5, Item (c) [page 3] of the 2020 Contract provides for changes in appropriations without need to amend a Contract.

5. Q: Is this Withhold for all funding?

A: No. This *Withhold* is for State Aid funds that pass through the LGU. Programs under direct contract with OASAS, OMH, and OPWDD are not affected by this particular *Withhold*.

6. Q: Can agencies use their own discretion to manage the Withhold?

A: For the 2020-Q3, per the letter from Commissioner Williams (dated 7/10/20), agencies have until Friday, July 17, 2020 at 5:00pm to submit recommendations to the LGU that articulate their recommendations of what is best for programs and the individuals they serve.

A: For the 2020-Q4, per the letter from Commissioner Williams (dated 10/9/20), agencies have until Friday, October 16, 2020 at 5:00pm to submit recommendations to the LGU that articulate their recommendations of what is best for program and the individuals they serve.

7. Q: What happens after the agency submits the plan to the LGU?

A: LGU/DCS will review submissions and reserves the right to request additional information to best meet the needs of the continuum across our System of Care.