



Bread for the City Representative Payee Program Program Guide

Thank you for choosing Bread for the City to be your Organizational Representative Payee. We hope that the information in this guide will help you.

Our address: **1525 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001**

Our telephone number: **(202) 386-7016** Our fax number: **(202) 265-1970**

We are located on 7th Street NW between P & Q Streets NW, near the Shaw/ Howard University Metro Station on the Green Line and near stops for the 70, 71, G2, and G8 Metrobus lines.

Check pick-up at our offices is limited to the following times:

- **Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, NW Center only**
- **Fridays 8:30 am to 12 noon, NW Center only**

Sometimes Bread for the City may be closed for **holidays** and **special events**. We follow the DC Government holiday closing schedule. We will be closed for the following holidays in 2023:

New Year's Day	January 3, 2023	Independence Day	July 4, 2023
Martin Luther King Jr Day	January 16, 2023	Labor Day	September 4, 2023
Presidents Day	February 20, 2023	Indigenous Peoples' Day	October 9, 2023
DC Emancipation Day	April 17, 2023	Veterans Day	November 10, 2023
Memorial Day	May 29, 2023	Thanksgiving Day	November 23, 2023
Juneteenth	June 19, 2023	Christmas Day	December 25, 2023

Please watch for posted signs about additional closings.

Bread for the City follows Federal Government weather closures.

Every RPP consumer is assigned a Bread for the City Rep Payee Coordinator who will collaborate with your mental health Community Support Worker to provide your payee services. Your RPP Coordinator is assigned based on which Core Service Agency you are connected with:

Robyn Dudley	Rep Payee Program Manager rdudley@breadforthecity.org	202-386-7083
Dwaynae Jordan	RPP Coordinator djordan@breadforthecity.org	202-301-1691
Johnnie Brooks	RPP Coordinator jbrooks@breadforthecity.org	202-386-7021
Justin May	RPP Coordinator jmay@breadforthecity.org	202-386-7615
Kurtisa Pratt	RPP Coordinator kpratt@breadforthecity.org	202-480-8959

Please feel free to call or email to schedule an appointment to speak with your RPP Coordinator.

**Bread for the City Representative Payee Program
Consumer Rights and Responsibilities**

Clients of Bread for the City’s Representative Payee Program have the following rights:

- To be treated with dignity and respect.
- To participate in creating the Budget & Spending Plan that will guide how their money is paid out for rent, utilities, groceries, spending money, etc.
- To have their questions answered whenever possible.
- To have all payments made on their behalf in a timely manner as specified in the Budget & Spending Plan or **within 48 hours of a special request**. To be met on time for appointments. If necessary, to be notified of any changes in scheduling as early as possible.
- To privacy and confidentiality concerning their conversations and case records. Such records will be released only with their written permission. However, Bread for the City Representative Payee Program staff will share information with one another.
- To inform the program staff if they are not satisfied with their care. If they feel their concerns are not answered, they should contact the Representative Payee Program Manager.
- To file a grievance with the Department of Behavioral Health if not satisfied by the process above.
- To be free from physical, mental, and sexual abuse by any staff or other individuals on the premises.
- To receive the most appropriate treatment regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or income.

Clients of Bread for the City’s Representative Payee Program have the following responsibilities:

- To treat staff, volunteers, and others who they may come into contact with at Bread for the City with dignity and respect.
- To participate in the planning of their Budget & Spending Plan and to follow the plan.
- To be honest with program staff when discussing anything that might affect their benefits.
- To keep their appointments on time or notify the program staff of any changes as soon as possible, preferably giving 24 hours notice.
- To participate in any treatment or services recommended for them by their Clinical Team at the Department of Behavioral Health.
- To let us know if they are unsatisfied with services or if they have thoughts of discontinuing Representative Payee Services at Bread for the City.
- To report any changes in their living situation to their Clinical Team and/or to Bread for the City as soon as they occur. *Please see the following page for additional details.*

Changes to Report

It is important that you report **any changes** to your living situation to your Clinical Team or to your Bread for the City RPP Coordinator **as soon as they occur**. It is our responsibility to report these changes to the Social Security Administration. This will ensure that you continue to receive the correct amount of benefits and avoid any overpayments. **YOU MUST TELL US IF:**

- You move or your address changes;
- You get married or separate from your spouse;
- Anybody moves into or out of your household;
- **You start or stop working (even if you earn only a little);**
- **You begin receiving any other income, the amount of other income changes, or you get any resources (inheritance, prize winnings, settlements from lawsuits, etc.);**
- You take a trip outside of the United States;
- **You go to jail or prison;**
- **You are admitted to the hospital or a nursing home;**
- You save any money;
- You are no longer disabled or your disability improves;
- There are other changes to your current situation that you think might impact your benefits.

Grievances / Problems with Your Payee

If you are having problems managing your budget we encourage you to speak **first** with your **Clinical Team at your Core Service Agency**. You and your Clinical Team will be reviewing your **Budget & Spending Plan** regularly. When you review your plan, you can discuss with your Clinical Team whether there are changes that can be made to help you better manage your money.

Bread for the City will be paying out your money based on the **Budget & Spending Plan** and other instructions we get from your Clinical Team. If you have a problem with the way that Bread for the City is following this plan and instructions, you can request a meeting with your **RPP Coordinator** at Bread for the City. We may ask your Community Support Worker to attend this meeting as well.

If after meeting with your **RPP Coordinator**, you still have concerns about the services you receive at Bread for the City, you can request a meeting with the **Representative Payee Program Manager**.

You can also file a Grievance at any time through the DBH FAIR grievance process. We can provide you with information or assistance with this process.

Please remember that Bread for the City is responsible to the **Social Security Administration (or if applicable, to the Office of Personnel Management)** for managing your money. We must use the money to pay for your current needs including housing and utilities, food, medical and dental expenses, personal care items, clothing, and rehabilitation expenses. After those expenses are paid we can use any money left to pay past-due bills, support your dependents, or provide entertainment for you. We can also help you save some of your money or plan for burial expenses. We must keep accurate records of how your money is spent and report this information to Social Security. Finally, we will also be providing you with monthly statements to show you how your money is being spent.

Your Budget & Spending Plan

Your Budget & Spending Plan will outline how Bread for the City regularly pays out your money each month. For example, it might say that we should mail a check for \$250 for your rent to your landlord each month and that you will pick-up a \$50 check for spending money twice per month. Every client's budget will be carefully planned to meet your needs. Therefore, **it is important that you and your Clinical Team work together to develop your Budget & Spending Plan.** You should review your plan regularly with your Clinical Team to make any needed changes. A new plan should be submitted **at least every 6 months.**

Sometimes your Budget & Spending Plan will change unexpectedly. You may move and need your rent paid to a different person or get cable installed and need to regularly have this new bill paid. **When there is a change to one of your regular payments, you must let your Clinical Team know as soon as possible.** They will fill out a new budget and send it to us, so that we can make changes to the payments made from your account.

Budgeting Tips:

- For weekly expenses, remember that some months will have 5 weeks
- Ask utility companies to mail bills directly to Bread for the City so that they can be paid on time
- Consider budgeting a separate check for groceries or requesting grocery gift cards for food shopping

And Additional Requests for Funds

Sometimes you will have a special expense that is not listed on your Budget & Spending Plan. For example, you may need extra money to replace your broken eyeglasses. **When you have a special expense, you must contact your Clinical Team to request the funds.** They will help to figure out whether you have money available to cover this extra expense. If you do, they can send us an Additional Disbursement Request Form to request a check. **It will take 48 hours to get you the special check.** Special requests include money for: birthdays, holidays, clothing, major items (TV, radio, etc), as well as checks paid to vendors (commercial entities) for services rendered/goods received. Your Clinical Team can request extra money for you up to 2 times per month.

In any emergency situation you must contact your Clinical Team first, and your Community Support Worker may be able to make a request for an emergency check (such as for medical expenses, legal fees, housing expenses, etc).

Additional Request for \$250.00 or more require special processing: you must have a specific need or intention for the funds and be able to **return receipts** to Bread for the City that show that you spent the money in that way. Your check must be picked up by or mailed to your Community Support Worker, so that he/she can help to make sure that the receipts are returned to Bread for the City.

Tips for Additional Requests:

- If you have a one-time bill, such as an invoice from a dentist or other service provider, your Community Support Worker can simply forward the bill for payment – no Additional Request Form is needed.
- Additional requests should be for special expenses – if you find that you need additional funds for everyday expenses such as bus fare, household or personal hygiene supplies, or food you should discuss your budget with your Community Support Worker.
- Regular monthly bills such as cell phone or electric bills should also be included on your budget and not paid through Additional Requests.
- Please remember that we can only release as much money as you have available in your account and money taken out early in the month by Additional Request may make it impossible to make other payments from your budget later in the month.

Bread for the City is a private, non-profit organization that provides direct services to residents of Washington, DC. Our Mission is to help Washington, DC residents living with low income to develop their power to determine the future of their own communities. We provide food, clothing, medical care, and legal and social services to reduce the burden of poverty. We seek justice through community organizing and public advocacy. We work to uproot racism, a major cause of poverty. We are committed to treating our clients with the dignity and respect that all people deserve. At Bread for the City, we share a vision of Washington, DC as a nurturing community, where all residents have access to the basic material resources they need for survival and growth, and the prosperity of their social, emotional, and spiritual lives.

More information about Bread for the City can be found at our website at www.BreadForTheCity.org.

Services of the **Representative Payee Program** are made available through a collaboration and contract with the **Department of Behavioral Health** of the District of Columbia.

To find out about service hours or how you or your friends and family can access these other services at Bread for the City, please contact your RPP Coordinator or call our receptionist at (202) 265-2400.

Notes: