

Renewals of the Consolidated, Community Living and Person/Family Directed Support Waivers



➤ Waiver Renewals

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approve waivers for 5-year periods.

- The Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waivers expire on June 30, 2022.
- The Community Living Waiver expires on December 31, 2022. We will be submitting a renewal of this waiver at the same time as the Consolidated and P/FDS waivers to get all waivers on the same cycle.

Activities Completed to Date

- **August 2021** – 11 Listening Sessions were held with various stakeholder groups.
 - 4 regional sessions for families
 - 2 sessions for self- advocates
 - 1 session for Administrative Entities
 - 1 session for Supports Coordination Organizations
 - 1 session for providers
 - 2 sessions for all stakeholders
- **September – November 2021** – ODP reviewed comments and recommendations from the Listening Sessions to draft final proposed changes for the waiver renewals.

Public Comment

- **February 12, 2022** – The proposed waiver renewals were published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for public comment.
- **February 12 through March 14, 2022** – Public comment period
- **March 15 through March 31, 2022** – ODP will review public comment to determine whether additional changes should be made to the waivers prior to submission to CMS.

➤ Proposed Waiver Renewal Changes: Communication

Assure effective communication by Waiver participants by:

- Clarifying the activities that can be performed under the Communication Specialist service;
- Increasing the amount of Communication Specialist services that Waiver participants can receive each year; and
- Requiring the communication specialist to successfully complete training provided by the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP).

➤ Proposed Changes: Employment

Promote competitive integrated employment by:

- Increasing the amount of Benefits Counseling services that Waiver participants can receive each year;
- Expanding Companion to support additional Waiver participants at their place of employment; and
- Allowing Supported Employment services to support Waiver participants during work-related trips.

➤ Proposed Changes: Self-direction, Choice & Control

Encourage self-direction, choice, and control by:

- Expanding options for Participant Directed Goods and Services and Music, Art and Equine Assisted Therapy;
- Creating a separate and distinct Waiver service for Remote Supports; and
- Clarifying the purpose of the Supports Broker service.

➤ Proposed Changes: Complex Needs, Health, Welfare

Support people with complex needs by allowing Life Sharing to be rendered in homes owned by the provider of Life Sharing services.

Promote health, wellness, and safety by:

- Expanding the Specialized Supplies service to cover personal protective equipment;
- Adding provider qualification requirements for Residential Habilitation, Life Sharing and Supported Living providers; and
- Allowing the continuation of remote monitoring of Waiver participants by Supports Coordinators.

➤ Proposed Changes: Qualified Staff

Develop and support qualified staff by:

- Adding recertification requirements for supports brokers; and
- Clarifying experience and education requirements for supports coordinators and supports coordinator supervisors.

Public Comment Webinars

The Department will also hold two webinars to receive comments on the proposed Waiver renewals. The dates, times and links for registration to attend the webinars are as follows:

March 1, 2022

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3855221339495759631>

March 4, 2022

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9071748704362734348>

➤ Waiver Renewal Documents

The proposed renewals of the Consolidated, Community Living, and P/FDS Waivers (including Record of Change documents that outline the specific changes being proposed) are available at:

<https://dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Pages/July-2022-ID-A-Waiver-Renewals-Public-Comment.aspx>.