

Adult Autism Waiver Renewal Proposed Changes to Appendices A-H and Public Comment

For All Stakeholders

March 16, 2021



Agenda



- Overview of Changes – 40 minutes
- Questions – 20 minutes
- Public Comment – 60 minutes

- The Office of Developmental Programs is required to renew the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) every five years.
- The current AAW expires June 30, 2021.
- The proposed AAW renewal is ODP's application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- The AAW renewal is expected to become effective July 1, 2021.



**February-
March 2021**
Public
Comment

July 2021
Implementation

April 2021
Submit to CMS



Simplify the System

- Alignment across all ODP Waivers: Service definitions, limitations, and provider qualifications, *where it makes sense*.
- Streamline process for providers to enroll and qualify to render services for all 4 waivers.



Quality of Services

- Increase number of qualified providers in AAW to meet the needs of individuals and families
- Add a service and enhance existing services that will promote independence and support families



Services with Major Changes

- Day Habilitation
- Residential Habilitation
- Respite
- Supports Coordination
- Therapies
- Assistive Technology
- Temporary Supplemental Services



Services with Minor Changes

- Supported Employment/Career Planning
- Small Group Employment
- Community Transition Services
- Specialized Skill Development:
 - Behavioral Specialist Services
 - Systematic Skill Building
 - Community Support
- Nutritional Consultation
- Family Support
- Home Modifications
- Vehicle Modifications
- Transportation

- Day Habilitation will be renamed Community Participation Support (CPS)
- The service definition and provider qualifications will be aligned with CPS in the Consolidated, Community Living and Person/Family Directed Support Waivers (ID/A Waivers).
 - These changes shouldn't impact how individuals receive services.
 - Adding a 2:1 staff to individual ratio
- *EXCEPTION*: AAW will not be adding prevocational services that pay subminimum wage.

Limitations on Community Participation Support

- Maximum of 14 hours per day of CPS and Community Support
 - Exceptions to this limitation will be permitted
- Maximum of 40 hours per week when CPS services are not provided with any other employment service and the participant is not competitively employed
 - Participants and their ISP teams will have three months from the effective date of the waiver to make alternative arrangements.
- Current 50 hours per week rule is not changing



Changes that will align with the ID/A waivers:

- The service definitions and provider qualifications for Residential Habilitation and Life Sharing will be aligned with the ID/A Waivers
 - Provider qualifications include updated experience, educational requirements for executive staff (aligned with ID/A waivers)
- Life Sharing will be removed as a component of Residential Habilitation and made a discrete service
- Relatives will be allowed to deliver Life Sharing
- Residential Habilitation will be allowed in Chapter 5310 (Community Residential Rehabilitation) homes

Changes that will align with the ID/A waivers (continued):

- Requirements for a Life Sharing Specialist were added to the provider qualifications.
- Behavioral Specialist will now be a component of the Residential Habilitation and Life Sharing. Provider qualifications for Behavioral Specialist Services will remain the same.

Changes that will align with the ID/A waivers (continued):

- Supplemental Habilitation will be added to Residential Habilitation and Life Sharing to provide for enhanced staffing in emergency situations or to meet a participant's temporary medical or behavioral needs.
- Supplemental Habilitation may be delivered in a medical hospital when specific criteria are met.

How AAW will be different than the ID/A waivers:

- Provider qualifications for Behavioral Specialist Services will remain the same.
- AAW will continue to allow for licensed Residential Habilitation only (no unlicensed settings)
- Participants in Residential Habilitation will be able to receive Systematic Skill Building and Community Support. Community Support must be delivered outside the licensed setting and Systematic Skill Building can be delivered in the licensed setting within limitations.

- Effective January 1, 2022, when rendering remote support services to participants, the Residential Habilitation provider must have an assistive technology professional (direct, contracted, or in a consulting capacity) available who has a current Assistive Technology Professional certificate from Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).
- The assistive technology professional is responsible for certain tasks outlined in the waiver.
- This change is being proposed to ensure that remote support services rendered as part of Residential Habilitation meets the needs of participants.

Qualifications for Supports Coordinators:

- Adopting current qualifications from the ID/A Waivers; AND
- Adding an additional qualification that is a combination of college credits and experience

This will broaden provider qualifications to allow more Supports Coordinators with practical experience to enter the field.



Proposed Qualifications for Supports Coordinators:

- A bachelor's degree with 12 college credits in sociology, social work, psychology, gerontology, criminal justice, or other related social science; **or**
- 2 years' experience as a County Social Service Aide 3 and 2 years of college level course work, with 12 college credits in topics listed above; **or**
- Any equivalent combination of experience and training which includes 12 college credits in topics listed above and 1 year of experience as a County Social Services Aide 3 or similar position performing paraprofessional case management functions; **or**
- A combination of 12 college credits in topics listed above and 2 years professional experience in developmental disabilities, special education, mental health, counseling, guidance, social work or health and rehabilitative services.

Adopting the qualifications for Supports Coordinator Supervisors from the ID/A Waivers and adding combination of experience and education:

- Effective 1/1/2022, SC Supervisors must meet one of the following:
 - A bachelor’s degree with a major coursework in sociology, social work, psychology, gerontology, criminal justice or other related social sciences; and two years’ experience as a Supports Coordinator; **or**
 - Have a combination of experience and education equaling at least six years of professional experience in developmental disabilities, special education, mental health, counseling, guidance, social work or health and rehabilitative services including at least 24 college-level credit hours in sociology, social work, psychology, gerontology or other related social science.

Adopting the qualifications for Supports Coordinator Supervisors from the ID/A Waivers:

- Each SC Supervisor can supervise a maximum of 7 Supports Coordinators.
- Must have knowledge of Pennsylvania's intellectual disability and autism service system which includes successful completion of:
 - Person-Centered Thinking training; and
 - Person-Centered Planning training.

Aligning training and other requirements of Chapter 6100 with ID/A Waivers.

What is not changing:

- Supports Coordinators can have a maximum caseload of 35 individuals.
- AAW will not be adding requirements for executive director experience, board of directors, or designated personnel for claims.

- Adding the component of Independent Living Technology that is in the ID/A Waivers.
- The purpose of independent living technology is to assist participants in obtaining and or maintaining their independence and safety within their home and community and decrease their need for assistance from others.
- Independent living technology involves the use of remote support services and/or equipment in conjunction with additional technological support and services.
- Limitations were revised to align with the ID/A waivers.



- The service definition, limitations, and provider qualifications will be aligned with the ID/A Waivers
 - A 2:1 staff-to-individual ratio service provision will be added.
 - For participants who have a behavioral or medical support need(s) that warrant enhanced staffing.

- Annual limitations (416 hours per ISP year) on Systematic Skill Building (SSB) will be added for participants who receive Residential Habilitation.
 - Participants and their ISP teams will have three months from the effective date of the waiver to make changes to the ISP that meet the participant's needs.
- A 2:1 staff-to-participant ratio will be added to the Community Support service
 - For participants who have a behavioral or medical support need(s) that warrant enhanced staffing.

- This service will be removed from the waiver and the additional staffing that Temporary Supplemental Services provided will be met in the following ways:
 - Residential Habilitation and Life Sharing settings will now utilize Supplemental Habilitation
 - Community Support, Respite, and Community Participation Support will be expanded to include a 2:1 staff-to-participant ratio

ODP will work with ISP teams to assist with transitions for participants that will be impacted by this change.

- Therapies (Counseling and Speech/Language)
 - Will be removed from the waiver.
 - Counseling is covered in the state plan (MA).
 - Speech/Language Therapy has not been utilized in the AAW in more than 5 years. This service is also covered in the state plan (MA).
- ODP will work with ISP teams to assist with transitions for participants that will be impacted by this change.

New: Homemaker/Chore Service



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

- Consists of services needed to maintain the home in a clean, sanitary, and safe condition.
- Supports individuals living in their own residence with or without family.
- Available for participants when nobody in their home can maintain clean, sanitary, and safe conditions.
- AAW will use the service definitions, service limitations, and provider qualifications from the ID/A waivers.
- The Homemaker component of this service is subject to Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) regulations

- Adding reserved capacity for individuals that will be discharged from a state center and individuals that will be re-entering waiver services after a period of incarceration.
- Refinement of critical incident definitions, protocols, oversight of medication administration, systems for detection of inappropriate use of restraints, and oversight of restrictive interventions.
- Addition of Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) process.

- As part of the AAW renewal, ODP is required by CMS to review the rate methodology to ensure it is current and ensure that the AAW has an adequate provider network.
- Proposed changes to Appendices I&J of the waiver and proposed changes to the fee schedule rates and Department-established rates will be made available for public comment separate from the current public comment period.

Written Comments



- While we will be recording this webinar, we encourage you to submit your comments in writing.
- You have 2 options:
 1. Email comments to the DHS at RA-odpcomment@pa.gov.
 2. Mail comments to Laura Cipriani, Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs, 625 Forster Street, Room 510, Harrisburg, PA 17120
- Comments received by 11:59 PM on March 29, 2021, will be reviewed and considered for revisions to Appendices A through H of the proposed renewal of the AAW.

Appendices A through H of the proposed Adult Autism Waiver renewal are available at:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Pages/Adult-Autism-Waiver-Renewal.aspx>

- We will now go over answers to some of the questions we have received regarding Appendices A through H of the proposed waiver renewal.
 - We have allotted 20 minutes for questions.
- The remaining time is reserved for obtaining public input on Appendices A through H of the proposed renewal of the AAW.

Questions – 20 minutes



Today's Public Input Process



- You may make public comment during this webinar in any of the following ways:
 - Type your comment into the question pane.
 - Use the feature in your tool bar to raise your hand and the organizer will unmute you to make a comment verbally.
- There is a 5-minute limit on verbal comments.
- We will not be answering questions during this time. We will record all questions as public comment and may consider these questions when making final changes to the waivers or developing future guidance.
- The recording of this webinar will be posted online.