

Changes to the Remote Supports Component of Assistive Technology in the Consolidated, Community Living and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waivers

ODP Announcement 21-094

AUDIENCE:

- Individuals and Families
- Providers of Consolidated, Community Living, or Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waiver services
- Administrative Entity (AE) Administrators and Directors
- Supports Coordination Organization (SCO) Administrators and Directors
- Supports Coordinators (SCs)
- Other Interested Parties

PURPOSE:

To notify interested parties of changes to Remote Supports in the most recently approved waiver amendments, including the requirement to complete the Variance Form (DP 1086) when an individual needs more than \$5,000 of Remote Supports per fiscal year.

DISCUSSION:

Amendments to the Consolidated, Community Living, and P/FDS Waivers approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) effective November 22, 2021, contain the following **changes** to Remote Supports which are a component of the Assistive Technology service¹ (all requirements contained in the waivers prior to the amendments continue to apply):

- The service plan team, in conjunction with the potential Remote Supports provider is responsible for informing the individual and anyone identified by the individual as to whether the individual can turn off the remote supports device(s) or equipment if they choose to do so and what will happen if they turn off the remote support device or equipment. The Remote Supports provider is also responsible for training the individual, family, natural supports, and any support professionals who will assist the individual in the use of the device(s) or equipment about how to turn off the device(s) or equipment if they choose to do so.
- The fiscal year limit of \$5,000 for Remote Supports may be exceeded using the standard ODP variance process.
- Any funding utilized for Remote Supports is not included in the overall Assistive Technology lifetime limit of \$10,000.
- Remote Supports providers must enroll directly with ODP and be deemed qualified to render the Remote Supports service. Remote Supports may not

¹ The Remote Supports component of Assistive Technology is not available to individuals who receive Residential Habilitation, Life Sharing or Supported Living services as remote supports are built into the rates for these residential services. Information about how Residential Habilitation, Life Sharing, and Supported Living services can be rendered via remote supports is described in ODP Communication [21-090, Guidance for Use of Assistive Technology and Remote Supports in Residential Settings](#).

be rendered through an Organized Health Care Delivery System (OHCHDS) or a participant-directed services model.

- All individuals can choose to use Remote Supports, including those who self-direct other services. Individuals must select a qualified agency provider.
- When intensive Remote Supports will be provided above \$5,000 per fiscal year, the provider must meet the following additional qualification criteria:
 - Develop and implement a quality management plan in accordance with 55 Pa. Code Chapter 6100.
 - Provide orientation and annual training to staff on recognizing and reporting incidents in accordance with 55 Pa. Code Chapter 6100; and
 - Have a professional (direct, contracted, or in a consulting capacity) available who has either a current Assistive Technology Professional certificate from Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) or Enabling Technology Integration Specialist SHIFT certification.

Variance Process:

ODP has updated Variance Form DP 1086 and the related instructions originally found in [Bulletin 00-18-06, Variance Form and Process](#) to reflect the requirements for intensive remote supports in these amendments. It is best practice for the Individual Support Team (ISP) team to use the Variance Form for intensive remote supports as a guide for assessing whether remote supports are the most appropriate service delivery method to meet the needs of the individual. Please begin using the updated DP 1086 and Instructions found at these links on the MyODP website for all variance requests.

DP 1086:

https://palms-awss3-repository.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP_Content/Resources/Forms/DP1086.pdf

Variance Form Instructions:

[https://palms-awss3-repository.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP_Content/Resources/Forms/00-18-06+B+Instructions+PUBLISH+\(002\).pdf](https://palms-awss3-repository.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MyODP_Content/Resources/Forms/00-18-06+B+Instructions+PUBLISH+(002).pdf)

Training:

ODP is holding a webinar on **February 16, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM** to discuss requirements and best practices for the Remote Supports component of Assistive Technology in the Consolidated, Community Living and P/FDS waivers. The date, time, and link for registration to attend the webinar are as follows:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9099301365535469580>

COMMENTS:

Comments may be directed to the appropriate ODP Regional Office.