

Open for Public Comment – Proposed Renewals of the Consolidated, Community Living and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waivers Effective July 1, 2022

ODP Announcement 22-018

AUDIENCE:

- Individuals and families
- Administrative Entities (AEs)
- Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs)
- Providers of Consolidated, Community Living, or Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waiver services

PURPOSE:

To announce that the proposed renewals of the Consolidated, Community Living and P/FDS waivers are available for public review and comment. **There is a 30-day public comment period on the information proposed in the waivers that starts on February 12, 2022 and ends on March 14, 2022.**

DISCUSSION:

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce the opportunity for public comment on the Consolidated, Community Living and P/FDS waivers. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approves waivers for a five-year period. The current Consolidated, Community Living and P/FDS waivers expire on June

30, 2022. Therefore, ODP must submit renewals for these waivers to CMS no later than April 1, 2022. The waiver renewals are anticipated to be effective on July 1, 2022. As part of this process, ODP is seeking your valuable feedback and comments on the proposed renewals.

The following substantive changes are proposed:

- Assure effective communication by participants by clarifying the activities that can be performed under the Communication Specialist service, increasing the amount of Communication Specialist services that participants can receive each year and requiring the communication specialist to successfully complete training provided by ODP.
- Promote competitive integrated employment by increasing the amount of Benefits Counseling services that participants can receive each year, expanding Companion to support additional participants at their place of employment and allowing Supported Employment services to support participants during work-related trips.
- 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.
- 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 participants by Supports Coordinators.

- 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.

Information regarding the proposed waiver renewals, including how to provide comments, can be found in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, Volume 52, Number 7 published on Saturday, February 12, 2022, at:

<https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol52/52-7/243.html>

The documents regarding the proposed waiver renewals are available at:

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

Please note that these documents do not contain the changes in the waiver amendments submitted to CMS with a proposed effective date of April 1, 2022. These changes will be added to waiver documents once they are approved by CMS.

COMMENTS:

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding the proposed waiver renewals. Comments should be addressed to Julie Mochon, Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs, 625 Forster Street, Room 510, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Comments may also be submitted to the Department at RA-odpcomment@pa.gov using subject header "Waiver Renewal Comments."

Comments received by 11:59pm on March 14, 2022, will be reviewed and considered for revisions to the waiver renewals that will be submitted to CMS.

ODP will 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 PM. to 3:30 PM

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

March 4, 2022

10:00 AM. to 11:30 AM

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

Anyone who is interested in participating may do so by phone but will need a computer to provide comments during the webinar. To assist ODP in accurately capturing comments provided during the webinars, individuals are asked to submit a written copy of their comments by email or to mail to the address provided above. If you are unable to attend one of these sessions, a recording will be made available. ODP will publish a communication when the recording is available.

Persons with a disability who require an auxiliary aid or service may submit comments using the Pennsylvania Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1 or by using one of the toll-free numbers:

(800) 654-5984 (TDD users)

(800) 654-5988 (voice users)

(844) 308-9292 (Speech-to-Speech) or

(844) 308-9291 (Spanish)

CONTACT:

Questions about this communication should be directed to RA-odpcomment@pa.gov.