

QUICK GUIDE FOR END DATES OF COVID-19 FLEXIBILITIES IN THE ADULT AUTISM WAIVER(AAW)

This document provides a brief description of COVID-19 flexibilities for the AAW including the dates that the flexibilities end. Full descriptions of how each flexibility can be implemented prior to the end date is outlined in the Operational Guide, attached to [ODP Announcement 22-015](#). Waiver requirements must be followed when the flexibilities end.

End Date: May 11, 2023

- Verbal consent with the content of the Individual Support Plan (ISP).
- Suspension of an individual's right to choose with whom they share a bedroom in a Residential Habilitation or Life Sharing home.
- Provision of Residential Habilitation in licensed Vocational Facilities and Adult Training Facilities that are closed or not in use when needed for quarantine purposes.
- Residential Habilitation can be provided in unlicensed settings.

End Date: November 11, 2023

- **Day Habilitation**

- Suspension of the requirement to complete the Request for Exception Form when an individual does not spend 25% of their time in community locations.
- Day Habilitation can be provided in-person in private homes, including licensed and unlicensed Life Sharing homes.
- Direct in-person Day Habilitation is allowed to be provided in a setting owned, leased, or operated by a provider of other Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP) services, excluding personal care homes and homes where Residential Habilitation is provided.

- **Residential Habilitation (Community Homes and Life Sharing)**

- Service definition limitations on the number of people served in a home may be exceeded.
- Maximum number of individuals served in a service location may be exceeded to address staffing shortages or accommodate use of other sites as quarantine sites.

- Prior written authorization through the use of the Residential Habilitation Request Form is suspended.
- Residential services may be rendered by relatives or legally responsible individuals.
- Minimum staffing ratios as required by licensure, service definition, and individual plan may be exceeded due to staffing shortages.
- Residential Habilitation (Community Home) can be provided temporarily in licensed residential homes located on campus settings for quarantine purposes.

- **Specialized Skill Development – Community Support**

- Community Support, when provided alone or in combination with Day Habilitation, Small Group Employment, and Supported Employment may be provided in excess of 50 hours per week without requesting an exception in order to meet the health and safety needs of participants.

- **Family Support and Small Group Employment**

- Family Support and Small Group Employment teleservices may be rendered.

- **Supported Employment**

- Supported Employment may be used to assist participants in applying for unemployment benefits when they have lost their jobs.
- Supported Employment may be rendered by relatives or legally responsible individuals when they have been hired by the provider agency authorized on the ISP.

- **Career Planning**

- Career Planning may be used to assist participants in applying for unemployment benefits when they have lost their jobs.

- **Respite**

- Respite limits may be extended beyond 30 times the day unit rate per ISP plan year without requesting an exception in order to meet the immediate health and safety needs of participants, including behavioral health needs.
- Respite services may be provided in any setting necessary to ensure the health and safety of participants.

- **Supports Coordination**

- ISP team meetings and plan development may be conducted entirely using telecommunications.

- **Temporary Supplemental Services**

- Temporary Supplemental Services can be exceeded beyond 540 hours in a 12-month period to address the increased needs of individuals affected by the pandemic or increased number of individuals served in a service location.
- Temporary Supplemental Services may be rendered by relatives or legally responsible individuals when they have been hired by the provider agency authorized on the ISP.

- **Payment to Family Members**

- The limitation for a family member to deliver services no more than 40 hours in a seven-day period will be extended to 60 hours in a seven-day period.

- **Participant-Centered Planning and Service Delivery**

- Documentation of email approval of changes and additions to ISPs will suffice as authorization.

- Upon validation that email approval was provided for requested changes, ODP may backdate authorizations in HCSIS for waiver services provided during the period-of-time specified in Appendix K.
 - For annual ISP purposes, the SC must use the check-in calls with participants, individual transition planning meetings, or annual team meetings to ensure that needed services and willing and qualified providers of the participant's choice are included in the ISP and kept current with changes in need.
 - Consent with the ISP may be verified electronically via secure email consent from the participant, the participant's designee if applicable, and service providers, in accordance with HIPAA requirements.
 - Services may start once they are authorized by the Bureau of Supports for Autism and Special Populations (BSASP) while waiting for signatures to be returned to the SC, whether electronically or by mail. Signatures will include a date reflecting the ISP meeting date.
- **Rates**
 - Payment of enhanced rates for Transportation Trip services.

Services Ending November 11, 2023

- **Shift Nursing**
- **Specialized Supplies**
 - These services, which were added under the flexibilities permitted by Appendix K, will no longer be offered in the Adult Autism Waiver as of November 11, 2023.