

Adult Autism Waiver (AAW)

Amendment Effective January 1, 2025

Amendment Approval Webinar
November 8th, 2024



Welcome!



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) would like to welcome you to the Amendment Approval Webinar for the AAW Amendment effective January 1, 2025.

Online today are:

- Megan Ham- Policy Analyst working with the Adult Autism Waiver
- Jamie Bonser- Policy Analyst working with the Adult Autism Waiver



Agenda for Today

Overview of Changes to the AAW- 30 – 40 minutes

- New AAW Service- American Sign Language (ASL) English- Interpretation
- Approved changes to current AAW Services:
 - Assistive Technology
 - Day Habilitation
 - Transportation
 - Community Transition
 - Residential Habilitation
 - Service Definition
 - Provider Qualifications
- Reserved Capacity

Questions

New AAW Service



American Sign Language- English Interpreter Service

American Sign Language (ASL)- English Interpreter Service

- The ASL- English Interpreter Services is for participants who utilize ASL.
- Participant's ISP team must develop an implementation plan and a plan to fade out the use of an interpreter to promote direct communication with the participant's staff and/or unpaid supports.
- Interpreter services are limited to an average of 8 hours per day and must be billed using 15-minute units or 1-hour units.



ASL-English Interpreter Service Continued

The ASL-English Interpreter service can be rendered:

- By traditional providers that enroll directly with ODP, or through an Organized Health Care Delivery System (OHCDS).
- The waivers will pay what the provider charges to the general public (vendor payment).

ASL- English Interpreter Service Continued



For more information:

ASL-English Interpreter Service trainings will be held at a later date. Please watch for future announcements for these trainings.

Future trainings will provide more details specific to the new service.

Changes to Current AAW Services



Assistive Technology

- Independent evaluations of assistive technology needs for devices costing **less** than \$750.00 are **not** required.
 - An evaluation **may** still be completed if the service plan team believes an evaluation will be beneficial.
 - Independent evaluations are not required for the purchase of generators.
- Independent evaluations may now also be completed by a professional certified by SHIFT as an Enabling Technology Integration Specialist (ETIS).

Assistive Technology Continued

- Clarification that:
 - The \$10,000.00 lifetime limit for Assistive Technology services includes independent evaluations of participants' assistive technology needs.
 - The \$5,000.00 lifetime limit on generators may not be raised using the exception process and generators for a secondary residence are not available through the waiver.
 - While generators have a separate lifetime limit, the amount spent on a generator is included in the overall Assistive Technology lifetime limit of \$10,000.00.

Day Habilitation

Day Habilitation

- Day Habilitation supports included a comprehensive analysis of an individual's interests, skills, strengths, preferences, etc.
 - Providers are required to complete and update an analysis for the participant **at least annually** for these areas.

Interests

Skills

Strengths

Preferences

Transportation Services

- Changes to service language:
 - Transportation is limited to \$10,000 per participant's service plan year.
 - \$10,000 limit is regardless of which transportation services are being utilized.
 - Transportation trip, transportation public, or a combination of the two.



Community Transition

- Language clarification:
 - Community Transition Services are non-recurring set-up expenses for individuals who are transitioning from a Medicaid-funded institution **or another provider-operated living arrangement** to a living arrangement in a private residence where the person is directly responsible for their living expenses.

Residential Habilitation Updates

The following updates were made to the Residential Habilitation service:

- Updated language to clarify:
 - The Residential Habilitation: Community Home/Life Sharing provider is also responsible for providing physical health maintenance services, including those required by a licensed nurse when required to assure health and wellness or as required in the service plan.



Supportive Technology Professionals:

- Removed the requirement that the Residential Habilitation provider must obtain written consent from the participant or the participant's legal guardian prior to the utilization of remote supports or anytime there is a change to remote supports.
- Must complete process of evaluation and informing participant of their privacy prior to the utilization of remote supports and any time there is a change, including technology devices utilized.

Residential Habilitation- Provider Qualifications

Provider qualifications were updated for both Residential Habilitation: Community Home and Life Sharing providers.

- These provider qualifications were previously incorporated in the AAW through the requirement that Residential Habilitation providers enrolled in the AAW also be qualified and enrolled to provide Residential Habilitation/Life Sharing services in either the Consolidated or Community Living Waivers.
- These provider qualifications have been explicitly added to the AAW service definition.

Residential Habilitation - Provider Qualifications



The inclusion of these provider qualifications are intended to continue to ensure that Residential Habilitation providers can support participants' visions for an Everyday Life by:

- Demonstrating prior experience delivering Home and Community Based Services (HCBS),
- Maintaining an experienced executive leadership team, and
- Continuing to provide services without interruption due to changes at the executive level.

Residential Habilitation - Provider Qualifications

Prior to enrolling to provide Residential Habilitation: Community Home and Life Sharing services, a provider must have:

- Actively provided direct non-residential home and community based services (HCBS) as a provider enrolled in an ODP waiver service for the two (2) years immediately prior to enrolling to provide Residential Habilitation Services.
- The provider must also remain in good standing and not subject to sanctions or enforcements by ODP.

Residential Habilitation Provider Qualifications

Executive level staff requirements:

- Providers must have or hire an executive level staff member with:
 - A bachelor's degree,
 - 5 years' experience in an executive level position relating to the provision of residential services to individuals with ID/A and/or serious mental illness, with responsibility for ALL of the following:
 - Day-to-day residential agency operations;
 - Oversight of the development/implementation of residential agency-wide policies and procedures;
 - Supervision of management level staff; and
 - Compliance with applicable state and federal regulations.

Residential Habilitation Provider Qualifications CEO

Requirements for Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)

- The position of CEO must be filled at all times.
- There must be a written plan of succession should the current CEO leave their position.
- Organizations must notify the ODP Regional Office within 10 business days of the hiring date of a new CEO, including interim or acting CEOs.
- Within 30 days of hire, new CEOs must complete:
 - The Health Risk Screening Tool Orientation
 - Dual Diagnosis Training

Residential Habilitation-Provider Qualifications CFO

Requirements for Chief Financial Officers (CFOs)

Organizations must have a CFO with either 5 years' experience or evidence of contracted financial management experience.



Reserved Capacity

Clarified Language for Reserved Capacity:

- Removed reserved capacity for individuals who receive services in an **acute care hospital** because they will **not be disenrolled** from the waiver and **will not need to have their waiver capacity reserved**.
- Clarification of what is **not** considered hospital/rehabilitation care for purposes of reserved capacity was added:
 - Residential treatment facilities,
 - State mental health hospitals,
 - Private and state ICFs/ID.

Additional Information

Additional Information about the approved changes to the AAW, including the Record of Change, may be found on the DHS webpage at:

<https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dhs/resources/intellectual-disabilities-autism/autism-services/adult-autism-waiver.html>



Questions?



Thank you for attending!