

Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) Amendment Effective November 1, 2023

Overview Training – November 17, 2023



Agenda



Reserved Waiver Capacity
Assistive Technology
Day Habilitation
Employment Services
Family Support
Home Modifications
Remote Supports
Residential Habilitation/Life Sharing
Supports Coordination
Transportation

The full waiver application, as well as a record of substantive changes,
is available online at: [Adult Autism Waiver \(AAW\) \(pa.gov\)](http://www.pa.gov/adultautismwaiver)

New Category: Long-Term Structured Residence

ODP reserves waiver capacity for AAW participants requiring services in a Long-Term Structured Residence (LTSR) licensed under 55 Pa. Code Chapter 5320 who require AAW services upon being discharged from the LTSR. Capacity may be reserved for up to 180 days prior to the expected date of discharge.

Changes to AAW Services



- Electronic devices that are **not used during provision of Remote Supports** are included under Assistive Technology to meet a communication or prompting need **or to enable participants to independently control devices and appliances in their home and community.**
- Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices for the participant. **Leasing of equipment and devices is only allowable short term:**
 - **For emergency substitution of a device or equipment until repairs are made or a replacement can be purchased; or**
 - **To allow a participant to try equipment and device(s) to determine whether the equipment or device(s) will be a good fit for the participant's needs.**

- Removing language that requires participants to spend at least 25% of their service time in community settings unless they have an exception
- Inclusion of Quality Management (QM) Action Plan in QM Plan for a service location where more than 10% of individuals who are receiving services are spending less than 25% of their time in community settings on average
 - The action plan must include data, barriers to increasing community time, action steps to address barriers, current methods to provide services in integrated community settings, successes, and who is responsible for updating the information

Day
Habilitation should
include
a comprehensive
analysis of the
participant in relation
to the following:

Strongest interests & personal
preferences for community activities

Skills, strengths, & other
contributions likely to be valuable to
employers or the community

Conditions necessary for successful
community inclusion and/or
competitive integrated employment

- Assisting participants with contacting relevant agencies and obtaining documents needed to access employment supports and services that educate participants on the impact of employment on current benefits

- Family Support may be provided via teleservices in accordance with ODP policy.

- Language added to clarify that the Career Planning and Supported Employment services include assisting the individual with contacting agencies and obtaining documents relating to employment.
- Intensive Job Coaching (Supported Employment):
 - Fading plan/schedule within 6 months of the first day of service delivery

Home Modifications

- Handrails that are considered a structural home modification are being returned as a home modification that can be covered under the waivers.
 - Grab bars are covered under Medical Assistance



Handrail



Grab bar

REMINDER: Remote Supports in Residential



Remote supports is an optional method of delivering Residential Habilitation: Community Homes and Life Sharing

- Remote supports is intended to reduce the individual's need for direct support that would typically be provided as part of Residential Habilitation
 - As such, staff time spent monitoring devices and interacting with individuals is built into the Residential Habilitation rate. Remote Supports cannot be authorized as a separate service on the ISP.
- The residential provider can subcontract with another provider to render remote supports. The residential provider is responsible for ensuring all waiver and regulatory requirements are met.

- The technology used by **one** individual for remote supports in Residential Habilitation: Community Homes and Life Sharing is now able to be covered under Remote Support Technology/Equipment (Procedure Code W6087)
- Technology used by **multiple** individuals in Residential Habilitation is covered in the residential rate and may not be authorized/billed through W6087.

- Remote Supports providers may have a secure, central facility in the United States.
 - Have staff available to provide in-person training as needed or requested.

- All Supports Coordination Organizations and Residential Habilitation: Community Homes and Life Sharing agencies must submit the most recent financial statement that has been audited by an independent Certified Public Accountant to ODP on an annual basis.
 - ODP Announcement 23-076 updated
 - ODP has developed a QuestionPro link for providers and SCOs to easily attach a *.pdf file of their financial statements. The link is available at ODP-Financial-Statement-Submission-Form (www.cpa.questionpro.com).

- For all participants receiving Residential Habilitation (Community Homes or Life Sharing):
 - Teleservices may **not** be used to conduct monitoring
 - No more than six months can lapse between face-to-face monitorings at the residential setting

Increasing the annual limit for Transportation in the AAW from \$5,000 to **\$7,500** with the following exception:

- For participants receiving Transportation-Trip, expenditure for the Transportation-Trip service only is limited to **\$10,000** per participant's service plan year.

Drivers and aides working for or contracted with agencies as well as volunteers utilized in providing this service if they will spend any time alone with a participant must meet the following standards:

- **Complete standard ODP required orientation and annual training.**

