


ODP Policy Conversation With Individuals and Families

December 2025





Today's Meeting

- ODP's Policy started these *informal* conversations back in 2023, where our first meeting had only 10 people!
 - Why: We wanted to engage individuals & families, who are new to our service system, to have conversations with them to learn about our service system.
 - Create a welcoming environment that feels safe to ask any question, relating to the topic.
 - Today, we have over 400 people registered! WHICH IS WONDERFUL! However, we still want to keep our goal of having informal meetings where people feel comfortable to engage in conversations and ask questions.
 - If you are solely a professional, we ask that you ONLY listen. If you have questions, please email them.
 - This meeting is really for those who are new to our system and wanting to understand the basics.
- 



Today's Meeting (continued)

- Today's meeting is NOT recorded! However, we will be recording a session of this information at a later time that will be posted on myodp.org.
 - We will use the Q&A function, which allows you to ask questions directly to policy members, and we will try to answer as many as we can.
 - We will also use the hand-raise function today, for when it's time to open-up the discussion.
- Moving forward, we are coming up with solutions on how to continue to have informal conversations, while also trying to meet the need of the growing number of people who want to attend.



Ground Rules

- 1.** Only for Individuals & Family Members
- 1a.** We ask any professionals to please leave or remain silent during the entire session.
- 2** Conversations/questions should be around the topic discussed
- 3** Everyone must show respect to each other, including the presenters
- 3a.** Any disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated, and the person will be muted and/or removed
- 4** Please keep opinions and personal stories within the context of the topic and ensure it is appropriate for everyone on today's meeting.
- 4a.** If there are personal things you wish to talk about, please email
- 5.** What is asked/shared at this event, stays at this event



Stay Up-To-Date (future meetings)

To be on ODP's emailing
list:

[Subscribe To ODP Listservs
– MyODP](#)



Have Questions
Later? Email us!

Email:
RA-odpcomment@pa.gov

What is ODP?
What is a
Waiver and
why do we
Have Them?



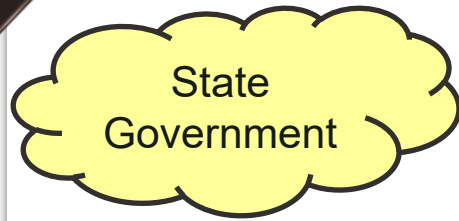
Let's Dive In: What is ODP?

Who: Office of Developmental Programs (referred to as ODP)

What: Assists individuals with an intellectual disability, developmental disability, and autism (ID/DD/A) with services, supports, and resources



What is ODP (continued)?



State
Government

- *Department of
Human Services*

ODP

Waiver services,
supports, &
resources for
ID/DD/A

Other Offices

Services, supports,
and resources for
older adults,
children, mental
health, etc..

What are Some of the Things ODP Does?

Policy

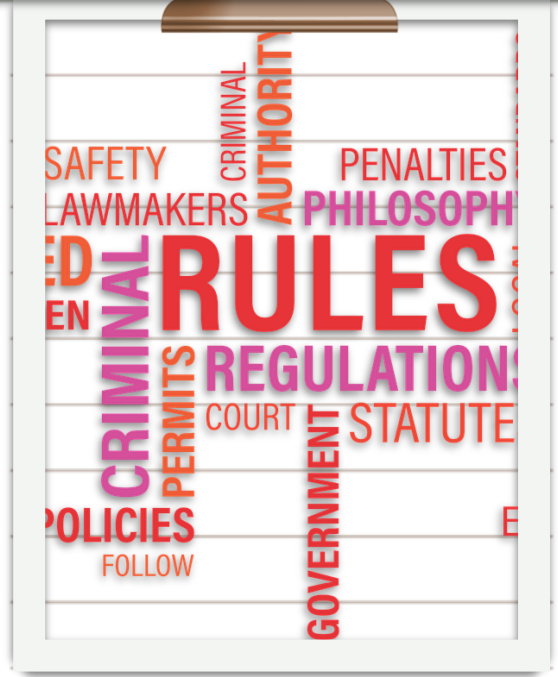
Waivers / Services & Rules / Guidance

Operations

Training on how the policy/guidance works

Oversight

Making sure services are being provided correctly





Any Questions About how
State Government is set up or
what ODP does?

Please raise your hand.



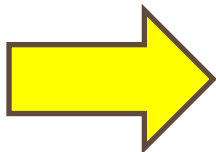
What is a
Waiver?



What is a Waiver? And Why do we Have Them?



Services in an institution



Services in the Community

A waiver “waives” rules. ODP’s waivers “waive” rules so that services can be provided in the community.

Institution vs. Community

Institution: where services are received in one general location.

Example: Bob (who has ID) lives, works, has hobbies, friends, etc. all from the same location/place.

Community: where people receive services and live, work, shop, and interact with others who do and do not receive services as part of an everyday life.

Example: Julia (who has Autism) lives in a townhouse in Philadelphia where she socializes with her neighbors. She works at a local grocery store and joined a book club at her local library.

Everyday Lives: Values In Action

The foundation of *Everyday Lives: Values in Action* is two statements:

1. We value what is important to people with disabilities and their families, who are striving for an everyday life.

An everyday life is about opportunities, relationships, rights, and responsibilities. It is about being a member of the community, having a valued role, making a contribution to society, and having one's rights as a citizen fully respected. It is a vision that we should all be working toward together.

2. People with disabilities have a right to an everyday life; a life that is no different than that of all other citizens. This continues to be the truest statement on which we can build our work.

Everyday Lives will be a guide to ODP as it develops policy and designs programs. Providers of services will use the recommendations of *Everyday Lives* to support individuals and their families to achieve an everyday life. *Everyday Lives* will guide everyone toward the possibility of an everyday life.



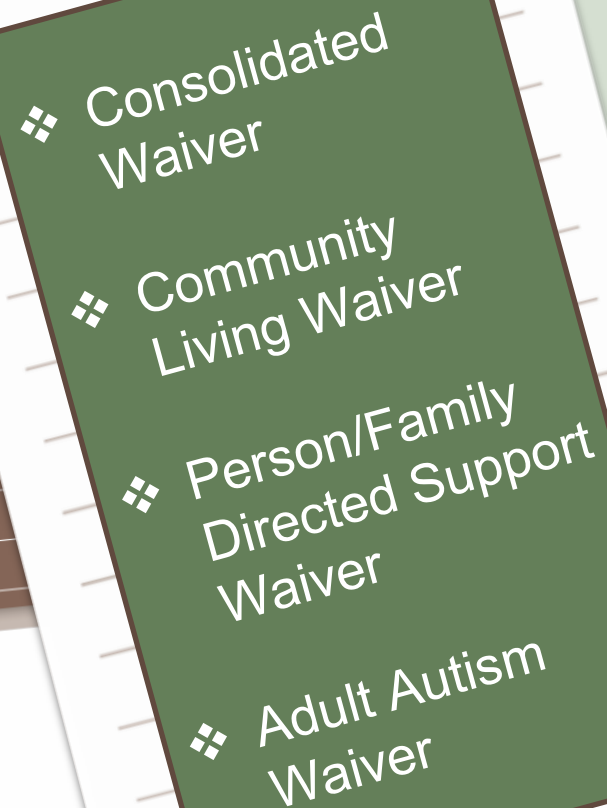
[https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Documents/Everyday%20Lives/Everyday%20Lives%CB%99%20Value%20In%20Action%20\(c_241391\).pdf](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Documents/Everyday%20Lives/Everyday%20Lives%CB%99%20Value%20In%20Action%20(c_241391).pdf)



So, I Still
Don't
Understand
What a
Waiver is...



Waivers

- 
- ❖ Consolidated Waiver
 - ❖ Community Living Waiver
 - ❖ Person/Family Directed Support Waiver
 - ❖ Adult Autism Waiver



In ODP there are 4 waivers





Waivers



Service
Community Participation Support
Education Support Services
Homemaker/Chore
In-Home and Community Support
Residential Habilitation
Respite
Supported Employment
Supports Coordination
Specialized Supplies
Therapy Services
Supports Broker Services
Advanced Supported Employment
Assistive Technology
Behavioral Support
Benefits Counseling
Communication Specialist
Companion
Consultative Nutritional Services
Family Medical Support Assistance
Family/Caregiver Training and Support
Home Modifications/Adaptations

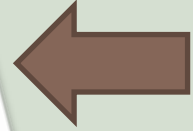
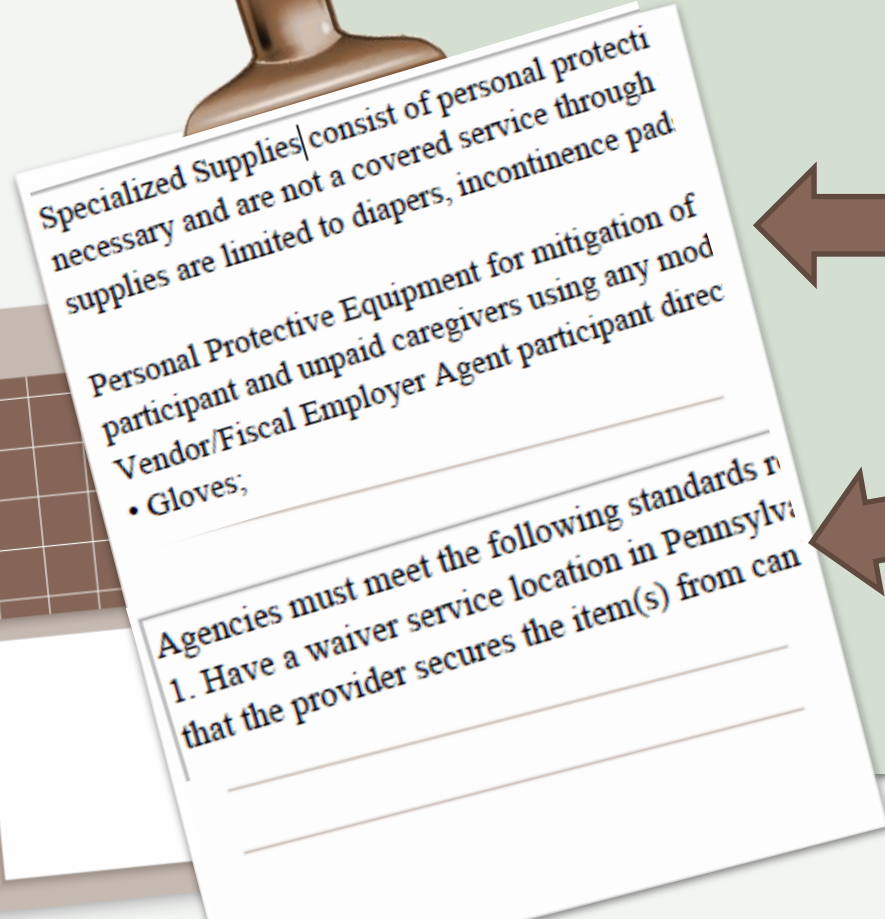
A waiver is a document that contains a list of services that someone may receive.

A service is what someone will be paid to provide to you through the waiver, such as your staff who help you with daily activities





Waivers



Each service has a service definition (policy) that explains what, when, and who provides the service.





Any Questions About What
was just Explained about
what a service or waiver is?



Please raise your hand.



Who Can Receive a Waiver?



ODP's Waivers & Who Is Served

Consolidated

- ID (any age)
- Autism (any age)
- DD (age 0-8)
- *DD with a medical complexity (0-21)

Community Living

- ID (any age)
- Autism (any age)
- DD (age 0-8)
- *DD with a medical complexity (0-21)

P/FDS

- ID (any age)
- Autism (any age)
- DD (age 0-8)
- *DD with a medical complexity (0-21)

AAW

- Autism (21+)



Any Questions About Who is
served in our Waivers?

Please raise your hand.



Does Everyone Have a Waiver?

Unfortunately, no. ODP currently provides services through the waivers to about 39,000 people.


There is an adult waiting list in PA for ID/A services.

Once an individual is enrolled for ID/A services in their county, they will be assigned a Supports Coordinator (SC) who will guide the individual and family through the system.



When a Waiver is Available / Money Caps

- ❖ Consolidated Waiver: No limit
- ❖ Community Living Waiver: \$97,000*
- ❖ Person/Family Directed Support Waiver: \$47,000*
- ❖ Adult Autism Waiver: No limit



Each waiver may have a limit of how much money can be spent on services.

**Certain exceptions included in waiver*



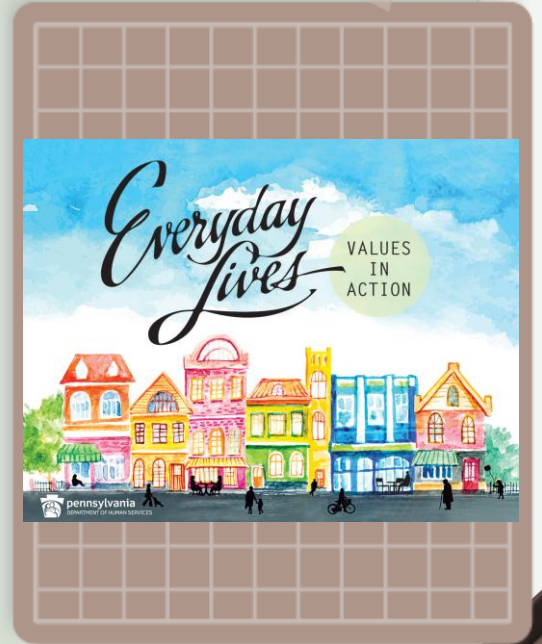


Any Questions About ODP's
Waivers & Money Caps?

Please raise your hand.



Example of Waiver Services



- Employment services
- Benefits Counseling
- Education Support Services
- Community Participation Supports
- In-Home and Community Support
- Companion



Daily Life & Employment

What a person does as part of everyday life – school, employment, volunteering, routines, & life skills.






- Supported Living
- Life Sharing
- Residential Habilitation
- Housing Transition and Tenancy Sustaining Services



Community Living

Where and how someone lives – housing and living options, community access, transportation, home adaptations and modifications.





Any Questions About ODP's
Waivers or Services or
Anything we Talked About
Today?



Please raise your hand.





Resources



Stay Up-To-Date (future meetings)

To be on ODP's emailing
list:

Email:

RA-PWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov

Resources

- Gold Book Gold Book 2023 ([amazonaws.com](https://www.amazonaws.com))
- ODP webpage on the DHS website: Developmental Programs ([pa.gov](https://www.pa.gov))
- Individual Support Plan (ISP) Manual: Attachment 1 - Individual Support Plan Manual.pdf ([pa.gov](https://www.pa.gov))
- County MH/ID Program Offices: [County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities \(MH/ID\) Offices | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
 - MyODP: [Home | MyODP](#)
 - LifeCourse Nexus: Training and Technical Assistance Center: <https://www.lifecoursetools.com/>
- PA Family Network: [PA Family Network - Vision For Equality](#)