

Listening Sessions for the Renewals of the Consolidated, Community Living and Person/Family Directed Support Waivers



Agenda

- **Overview – 15 to 20 minutes**

- We hope to provide all the information about the general waiver renewal process that you need to provide input during the listening session. If there is something we haven't covered that you need, please write this into the question pane and we will try to respond.
- We will not answer questions about specific waiver services or policies.

- **Listening Session – Remaining time**

- We will not be responding to verbal questions during the listening session. This is our time to listen to your thoughts, ideas and experiences.

➤ What is a Home and Community Based Waiver?

- Institutional requirements are “waived” for home and community-based services.
- Medicaid home and community-based services are authorized in Section 1915c of the Social Security Act.
- Programs are funded by federal and state dollars.
- CMS is the federal agency that approves and provides oversight of waivers.
- States must apply to CMS for approval and renewal of waivers.

What Information Is In a Waiver

Appendix A	Appendix B	Appendix C	Appendix D
Waiver Administration and Operation	Participant Access and Eligibility	Participant Services	Participant- Centered Planning and Service Delivery

➤ What Information Is In a Waiver Part 2

Appendix E

Participant
Direction of
Services

Appendix F

Participant
Rights

Appendix G

Participant
Safeguards

Appendix H

Quality
Improvement
Strategy

➤ What Information Is In a Waiver Part 3

Appendix I

Financial
Accountability

Appendix J

Cost Neutrality
Demonstration

Purpose of Listening Sessions

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approve waivers for 5-year periods.

- The Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waivers expire on June 30, 2022.
- The Community Living Waiver expires on December 31, 2022. We will be submitting a renewal of this waiver at the same time as the Consolidated and P/FDS waivers to get all waivers on the same cycle.

Listening Sessions are ODP's opportunity to hear what changes you would like to see in the waivers.

- We use your ideas and input to inform the creation of waiver renewals.

▶ Listening Sessions Vs. Public Comment

- **Listening Sessions** provide input to inform ODP's development of the waiver renewals. You aren't reacting to proposed changes. All ideas are welcome.
- During **public comment periods**, proposed changes have been published and ODP is seeking your thoughts about those changes. ODP anticipates public comment on the waiver renewals to occur in January 2022.

The Listening Sessions are not meant to replace the Public Comment Forums, which will take place after the waiver renewals have been drafted. At this stage, ODP is looking for input before the drafts are written.

▶ Listening Session Schedule

Audience	Date	Time
Families (Northeast Region)	8/10/21	1-2:30pm
Families (Southeast Region)	8/13/21	9-10:30am
Families (Central Region)	8/23/21	10-11:30am
Families (Western Region)	8/30/21	1-2:30pm
Self-Advocates	8/19/21	2-3pm
Self-Advocates	8/27/21	11am to 12pm
Administrative Entities	8/12/21	9-10:30am
Supports Coordination Organizations	8/26/21	3-4:30pm
Providers	8/13/21	2-3:30pm
All Stakeholders	8/6/21	10-11:30am
All Stakeholders	8/31/21	2-3:30pm
8/6/2021	9	

Overview of Waiver Renewal Process



➤ Tips for Waiver Renewal Input

- Renewal time is an excellent opportunity for you to provide input into changes you feel need to take place, new services that could be helpful, and language that could be clearer for all to understand.
- ODP may not be able to implement all of your ideas effective July 1, 2022. When this happens, we may keep your ideas for future waiver amendments.
- ODP also will determine whether ideas and recommendations align with ODP's mission and vision, federal and state regulations, budgetary constraints, and Everyday Lives recommendations.

➤ How can we better achieve our mission and vision?

ODP Mission:

The mission of the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is to support Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence, choice and opportunity in their lives.

ODP Vision:

ODP's vision is to continuously improve an effective system of accessible services and supports that are flexible, innovative and person-centered.

➤ Considerations – HCBS Rule

CMS Home and Community-Based Settings Rule

Waiver settings and services must:

- Be integrated in and support full access to the greater community;
- Be selected by the individual from among setting options;
- Ensure individual rights of privacy, dignity and respect, and freedom from coercion and restraint;
- Optimize autonomy and independence in making life choices; and
- Facilitate choice regarding services and who provides them.

Considerations – Everyday Lives



- 1 Assure Effective Communication
- 2 Promote Self-Direction, Choice and Control
- 3 Increase Employment
- 4 Support Families throughout the Lifespan
- 5 Promote Health, Wellness, and Safety
- 6 Support People with Complex Needs
- 7 Develop and Support Qualified Staff
- 8 Simplify the System
- 9 Improve Quality
- 10 Expand Options for Community Living
- 11 Increase Community Participation
- 12 Provide Community Services to Everyone
- 13 Evaluate Future Innovations Based on Everyday Lives Principles
- 14 Promote Racial Equity



➤ Considerations - ARPA

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
 - The renewals cannot impose stricter eligibility standards, methodologies or procedures for waiver services.
 - Example: Changing eligibility to require a person to have substantial adaptive skills deficits in more than 3 areas.
 - The renewals must preserve covered services, including the amount, duration and scope
 - Examples: Cannot remove a service (even if nobody has been using it), add limits to a service where none currently exist, reduce current service limits.
 - The renewals cannot decrease provider payments

➤ Considerations – ARPA Part 2

Question: How do these ARPA requirements impact new services or service components in the renewals?

Answer: *New services or service components could be included in the renewals. Because these things did not exist on April 1, 2021, we could also implement service limits and rates for any new services or service components in the renewals.*

Question: Do ARPA requirements impact our ability to implement new provider qualification requirements?

Answer: *No, the renewals can contain new provider qualification requirements. The requirements just can't result in a reduced rate for the provider.*

Some Things to Think About

All ideas are welcome! If it helps, you can consider some of the following when providing input:

- What has worked well for you or someone you support?
- What hasn't worked well? How could this be improved?
- What changes could we make to optimize:
 - Quality
 - Inclusion
 - Independence
 - Choices (including helping people making informed choices)
 - Communication
 - Employment
 - Family Support
 - Qualified Staff



▶ Today's Public Input Process

- Individuals who indicated an interest in providing input during registration will be announced and have their line unmuted to share their thoughts and ideas.
- There will be a time limit for comments. The limit is dependent on the number of people who registered to provide input but will be no longer than 4 minutes.
 - Reminder, we will not be responding to verbal questions during the listening session. This is our time to listen to your thoughts, ideas and experiences.
- Written comments are also welcome in the question pane today or at one of the following by 8/31/21:
 - Email: RA-odpcomment@pa.gov
 - Mail: Julie Mochon, Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs, 625 Forster Street, Room 510, Harrisburg, PA 17120

Thank
You!