

Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) Renewal Submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

ODP Announcement 21-067

AUDIENCE

Individuals and families, supports coordination organizations (SCOs), providers of Adult Autism Waiver services, and other interested parties

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to inform all interested parties of the submission of the renewal of the Adult Autism Waiver to CMS. The renewal has been submitted with no substantive changes from the currently approved waiver. It is anticipated the effective date will be retroactive to July 1, 2021.

DISCUSSION:

Earlier this year, the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) published the proposed renewal of the Adult Autism Waiver for a 30-day public comment period. ODP subsequently met with representatives from CMS to discuss and receive guidance on Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which pertains to a temporary increase in federal funding. During that meeting, it was determined that some of the proposed changes to the Adult Autism Waiver conflicted with the requirements of Section 9817 of ARPA and CMS' guidance that was published in May of 2021.

Due to the need to rectify these issues, ODP requested, and CMS granted a temporary extension of the currently approved Adult Autism Waiver through December 27, 2021. ODP submitted the renewal of the Adult Autism Waiver **with no substantive changes from the currently approved waiver** to CMS on September 13, 2021. It is anticipated the effective date will be retroactive to July 1, 2021. ODP will inform all stakeholders when CMS has officially approved the Adult Autism Waiver.

ODP intends to pursue some of the changes that were previously proposed and will do so as an amendment to the Adult Autism Waiver. Those changes were discussed during a [webinar held on July 15, 2021](#).

Because ODP is not making the changes it originally planned to the Adult Autism Waiver, ODP will not be implementing the proposed rates published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on May 22, 2021. However, ODP is currently working on updating the data for the Fee Schedule rates. The proposed changes to the rates will be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and a 30-day public comment period will be available prior to the implementation of the rates.

Questions about the renewal of the Adult Autism Waiver or this communication should be directed to RA-odpautismwaiver@pa.gov.