

Now Available: Adult Autism Waiver Amendment Submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ODP Announcement 22-059

AUDIENCE:

Individuals and Families, Providers of Adult Autism Waiver services, Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs), and other interested parties

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to inform all interested parties of the submission of the proposed amendment to the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) to CMS.

DISCUSSION:

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce that an amendment to the AAW was submitted to CMS on May 9, 2022. The submitted AAW includes modifications that were made as a result of public comment.

The AAW amendment includes the following substantive changes:

- The addition of reserved waiver capacity for individuals who are discharged from a state center. Reserved waiver capacity is also being added for participants who have been incarcerated for more than six consecutive months.
- The alignment of provider qualifications in the AAW with the Consolidated, Community Living and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) waivers, whenever possible.

- Allowing relatives to deliver the Life Sharing component of the Residential Habilitation service.
- Requiring that agencies that provide Residential Habilitation/Life Sharing must be qualified and enrolled to provide Residential Habilitation/Life Sharing in the Consolidated or Community Living waivers.
- Increasing the annual fiscal limit in the Transportation service to \$5,000 per participant's ISP year.
- Allowing one of the four required monitorings conducted by the Supports Coordinator each year to be conducted remotely.
- The addition of a new service, Remote Supports.
- Delivery of direct services using remote technology. The requirements in the AAW will become effective when Appendix K flexibilities expire, six months after the expiration of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Aligning the Assistive Technology service, where possible, with the Consolidated, Community Living and P/FDS waivers. This includes adding generators for the participant's primary residence.

The full AAW application, as well as a record of substantive changes, is available online [here](#). CMS has 90 days to review the amendment and changes may occur to the content based upon discussion with CMS during the approval process. The proposed effective date of July 1, 2022 is subject to change. ODP will inform all stakeholders when CMS has officially approved the AAW and will make the approved waiver available at that time.

CONTACT: Questions about this communication should be directed to RA-odpautismwaiver@pa.gov.