

QUICK GUIDE FOR END DATES OF COVID-19 FLEXIBILITIES IN THE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY/AUTISM (ID/A) WAIVERS

This document provides a brief description of COVID-19 flexibilities for the Consolidated, Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) and Community Living Waivers including the dates that the flexibilities end. Full descriptions of how each flexibility can be implemented prior to the end date are outlined in the [Operational Guide](#). Waiver requirements must be followed when the flexibilities end.

End Date: May 11, 2023

- Verbal consent with the content of the Individual Support Plan (ISP).
- Suspension of an individual's right to choose with whom they share a bedroom in a Residential Habilitation or Life Sharing home.
- Provision of Residential Habilitation in licensed Vocational Facilities and Adult Training Facilities that are closed or not in use when needed for quarantine purposes.
- Residential Habilitation can be provided in the unlicensed private home of residential habilitation staff.

End Date: November 11, 2023

- **Community Participation Support (CPS)**

- Suspension of the requirement to complete the Waiver Variance Form when an individual does not spend 25% of their time in community locations.
- CPS can be provided in-person in private homes, including homes where Life Sharing or Supported Living is provided.
- There is no limit on the number of hours of CPS teleservices rendered in private homes, including homes where Life Sharing or Supported Living is provided.
- Suspension of the requirement that no more than 3 people can be supported at one time in a community location while billing community procedure codes.
- Direct in-person CPS is allowed to be provided in a setting owned, leased, or operated by a provider of other ODP services, excluding personal care homes and homes where Residential Habilitation is provided.

- CPS can be billed when the provider transports participants who live in private homes (excluding homes where Life Sharing is provided) in specific circumstances.

- **Residential Habilitation, Life Sharing, and Supported Living**

- Residential Habilitation homes can exceed service definition limitations on the number of people served in a home and/or Approved Program Capacity.
- Shift Nursing may be provided as a separate and discrete service during the provision of residential services.
- Supplemental Habilitation can be provided without completing the waiver variance form.
- Residential services may be rendered by relatives or legally responsible individuals.
- Minimum staffing ratios as required by licensure, service definition, and individual plan may be exceeded due to staffing shortages.
- Residential Habilitation can be provided temporarily in licensed residential homes located on campus settings for quarantine purposes.

- **Education Support Services**

- Education Support can be used when universities/colleges require students to take classes online or when participants choose to take classes online to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- **In-Home and Community Support and/or Companion**

- Suspension of the requirement that multiple relatives can provide no more than 60 hours per week of In-Home and Community Support and/or Companion.

- **Small Group Employment**

- Small Group Employment teleservices may be rendered.

- **Supported Employment**

- Supported Employment may be used to assist participants in applying for unemployment benefits when they have lost their jobs.

- **Supports Coordination**

- ISP team meetings and plan development may be conducted entirely using telecommunications.

- **Respite**

- Respite limits may be extended beyond 30 days annually without completing the waiver variance form to meet the immediate health and safety needs of participants.
- Respite services may be provided in any setting necessary to ensure the health and safety of participants.
- Consolidated Waiver only – Respite limits may be exceeded beyond 480 15-minute units annually without completing the waiver variance form in order to meet the immediate health and safety needs of the participant.
- Community Living and P/FDS Waivers Only – Respite limits may be exceeded beyond 1440 15-minute units annually without requesting a variance in order to meet the immediate health and safety needs of the participant.

- **Participant-Centered Planning and Service Delivery**

- Documentation of email approval of changes and additions to ISPs will suffice as authorization.

- Upon validation that email approval was provided for requested changes, Administrative Entities (AEs) may backdate authorizations in HCSIS for waiver services provided during the period of time specified in Appendix K.
- For annual ISP purposes, the SC must use the check-in calls with participants, individual transition planning meetings, or annual team meetings to ensure that needed services and willing and qualified providers of the participant's choice are included in the ISP and kept current with changes in need.
- Consent with the ISP may be verified electronically via secure email consent from the participant, the participant's designee if applicable, and service providers, in accordance with Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements.
- Services may start once they are authorized by the AE while waiting for signatures to be returned to the SC, whether electronically or by mail. Signatures will include a date reflecting the ISP meeting date.

- **Waiver Services Delivered During Hospitalization**

- A participant should not be disenrolled from the waiver if the participant is hospitalized and waiver services are not provided during hospitalization.

- **Rates**

- Payment of enhanced rates for CPS and Transportation Trip services.

End Date: June 30, 2024

- **Specialized Supplies**

- The fiscal year limit is temporarily increased from \$500 to \$1500 to cover needed Personal Protective Equipment.

- **Supports Broker**

- The fiscal year limit is temporarily increased from 1040 15-minute units to 2080 15-minute units per participant per fiscal year.

- **Limits on Sets of Services – Exceed Waiver Annual Cap**

- Community Living Waiver Only – The \$85,000 per person per fiscal year limit established for Community Living Waiver services can be exceeded temporarily to provide needed services for emergency care provision due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- P/FDS Waiver Only – The \$41,000 per person per fiscal year limit established for P/FDS Waiver services can be exceeded temporarily to provide needed services for emergency care provision due to the COVID-19 pandemic.