

Required Communication Specialist Provider Qualification Training

ODP Announcement 23-048

AUDIENCE:

Providers that render Communication Specialist services and Administrative Entities (AEs)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this announcement is to provide guidance and information relating to a new qualification requirement that has been added to the Communication Specialist Service. The new qualification requirement will become effective January 1, 2024. This guidance is being released to give providers sufficient time to meet the new requirement.

DISCUSSION:

ODP is adding a new provider qualification to the Consolidated, Community Living, and Person/Family Directed Support(P/FDS) Waivers for Communication Specialist services. This is a direct and indirect service that supports participants with nontraditional communication needs.

All providers who wish to provide this service after January 1, 2024, must complete the Communication Specialist training provided on MyODP. This applies to Communication Specialists, Communication Specialists that are direct employees of an agency, and contracted employees of an agency.

The training to meet this requirement is available under the Special Populations category on MyODP.org or can be accessed here: [Communication Specialist Training](#).

Please note that this is the only training that is acceptable to meet the qualification requirement. No other training content will be accepted.

CONTACT:

Please direct any questions about this announcement to the ODP Special Populations Unit Mailbox at RA-PWSpecialPopUnit@pa.gov or to the appropriate ODP Regional Office.