

Now Available: Amendments to the Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP) Waivers Approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ODP Announcement 23-085

AUDIENCE:

- Individuals and Families
- Providers of Consolidated, Community Living, Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) and/or Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) services
- Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs)
- Administrative Entities (AEs)
- Other Interested Persons

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to inform all interested parties that the Consolidated, Community Living, P/FDS and AAW amendments were approved by CMS and become effective November 1, 2023. The waiver amendments are available on the Department of Human Services' (DHS) website.

DISCUSSION:

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce that the

amendments to the Consolidated, Community Living, P/FDS, and Adult Autism Waivers were approved by CMS on October 18, 2023. The amendments are effective November 1, 2023. As communicated in [ODP Announcement 23-070](#), the waiver amendments were submitted to CMS on July 25, 2023. Since that time, ODP has been engaged in ongoing discussions with CMS. The following are examples of changes that were made after the amendments were submitted to CMS:

- The unduplicated number of participants served in the Community Living Waiver has been increased to accommodate the 750 additional people to be served in the waiver as approved in the budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 23/24.
- The unduplicated number of participants served, and number of participants served at any point in time in the AAW has been increased by 5 to ensure there are enough spaces in the waivers to serve those individuals for whom capacity will be reserved when they require services in a long-term structured residence.
- The new Specialty Telehealth and Assessment Team service will be implemented in March 2024 in the Consolidated, Community Living, and P/FDS Waivers. Information to protect each individual’s privacy during the telehealth assessment and a requirement for the provider to develop a summary of their role in service delivery to share with other health care professionals involved in the individual’s care was added to the service definition.
- Handrails that are considered a structural home modification are being returned as a home accessibility adaptation covered through the Consolidated, Community Living, and P/FDS waivers and a home modification covered through the AAW. As Pennsylvania works on implementing coverage of Home Accessibility durable medical equipment through Medical Assistance, ODP has received clarification that handrails that are considered a structural home

modification do not meet the definition of equipment and appliances and are not covered through Medical Assistance.

The proposed Recovery and Expansion Supplemental Payments for Community Participation Support (CPS), Supported Employment, Benefits Counseling, Small Group Employment and Supports Coordination in the Consolidated, Community Living and P/FDS Waivers were also approved by CMS in these amendments. For those providers that submitted applications for these payments, ODP will be reviewing utilization and billing data in the coming weeks and calculating payment amounts. It is expected that payments will be processed no later than December 31, 2023.

All waiver changes submitted to CMS in July were approved.

Each full waiver application, as well as a record of all substantive changes, is available online at:

[Consolidated Waiver](#)

[Community Living Waiver](#)

[P/FDS Waiver](#)

[Adult Autism Waiver](#)

ODP will be holding two webinars to provide a general overview of major changes made in these approved waiver amendments. There will be time during the session for presenters to answer questions submitted by participants during the webinar. The date, time, and registration link for these webinars are as follows:

[Consolidated, Community Living, and P/FDS Waiver Amendment Overview](#)

November 17, 2023

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Registration Link:

[Intellectual Disability/Autism \(ID/A\) Waiver Amendments Effective November 1, 2023](#)

[Adult Autism Waiver Amendment Overview](#)

November 17, 2023

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Registration Link: [Adult Autism Waiver Amendments Effective November 1, 2023](#)

Webinars, guidance, and clarification on other topics such as the new Specialty Telehealth and Assessment Team service and implementation of the CPS quality management plan requirements and provider qualifications for new residential providers will be provided in future communications.

CONTACT:

Questions about this communication should be directed to the appropriate ODP Regional Office.