

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ADULT AUTISM WAIVER

The current Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) expires on June 30, 2016; the Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) must submit a waiver renewal to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) no later than March 15, 2016. CMS will then review the waiver renewal and may require changes in order to approve it to take effect on July 1, 2016.

In the request for a renewal of the AAW, BAS proposes the following key changes:

Waiver Capacity (Appendix B):

Increase in capacity

Increase of the number of participants served at any one time from 518 to 568 and increase of the number of unduplicated participants from 544 to 597. The unduplicated count is the total number of individuals who were enrolled any time during the fiscal year. If an individual leaves the waiver and is replaced by another individual, that counts as two unduplicated participants. Historically, about 5% of AAW participants voluntarily leave the program each year.

Reserved Capacity

Addition of reserved capacity for ten individuals discharged from a state hospital and for three individuals transferring from the Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP). Reserving waiver capacity means that some waiver openings are set aside for persons in certain circumstances. The waiver defines what those circumstances are, and those people must still meet the eligibility requirements that all other participants must meet.

Addition of an Interim Service Plan:

The current AAW includes reserved capacity for five adults with autism who have a protective services plan developed pursuant to the Adult Protective Services Act (APS) that specifies a need for long-term support. In order to expedite enrollment for those individuals, BAS determined that an interim service plan would be necessary. The interim plan will allow waiver services to start quickly and in advance of the development of the full ISP. BAS staff will provide supports coordination services and work with the participant and representative (if applicable), APS staff, and others identified by the participant to create the interim Individual Support Plan (ISP). An interim plan can be used for no more than 45 days. The participant will have choice of supports coordination agencies to continue providing the supports coordination service and develop their full ISP.

Intake Process:

Revise the process for getting an application for individuals between 18 and 21 years of age. If BAS is sending out waiver applications and the age of the person who would get the application is between 18 and 21 years of age, BAS will wait until the person turns 21 years of age and waiver capacity is again available to send an application.

Services (Appendix C):

Specialized Skill Development (currently Behavioral Specialist Services and Community Inclusion)

Behavioral Specialist Services will be expanded and combined with Community Inclusion (now called “Community Support”) to form a new service, “Specialized Skill Development.” The new Specialized Skill Development service will address not only behavioral goals, but also provide a targeted, evidence-based approach to skill building which is proven effective in supporting individuals with autism.

These changes will provide staff with plans to support participants to gain skills and have better coordination between staff who develop the plans and staff who carry out the plans.

Specialized Skill Development will consist of three components:

BEHAVIORAL SPECIALIST SERVICES

- This service remains unchanged from the current Behavioral Specialist Services.
- Promotes the development and consistent implementation of the Behavioral Support Plan and Crisis Intervention Plan across environments and among families, friends, employers and others who have regular contact with the participant, which is essential to the effectiveness of behavioral support.
- Includes Initial Behavioral Support Plan and Crisis Support Plan Development, ongoing support to the participant and ongoing support to families, friends, employers and others who have regular contact with the participant.

SYSTEMATIC SKILL BUILDING

- This is a new component.
- Uses evidence-based methods to help the participant acquire skills not focused on behavior which promote his or her independence and inclusion in the community. (Possible skills include learning how to cook or use public transportation.)
- Includes Skill Building Plan Development which includes an evaluation of the participant’s abilities and learning style that is related to goals in the ISP. The evaluation may include gathering information on the participant’s skill-building history as well as his or her current skill level. The Skill Building Plan includes benchmarks for evaluating if the service is effective. A participant’s Skill Building Plan may address more than one skill if the participant’s ISP has different goals or objectives that can be met through this service.
- Also includes ongoing support to the participant and ongoing support to families, friends, employers and others who have regular contact with the participant.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT (CURRENTLY “COMMUNITY INCLUSION”)

- This service is very similar to the current Community Inclusion service, but participants will now have a single provider if they have any combination of Behavioral Specialist, Specialized Skill Building or Community Support.
- Implements the Behavioral Support Plan, Crisis Intervention Plan and Skill Building Plan if the participant has any of those plans.
- Assists participants in acquiring, retaining, and improving communication, socialization, self-direction, self-help, and other adaptive skills necessary to reside in the community. It

also includes activities that improve a participant's capacity to perform activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living.

- Community Support may be used with different staffing levels: one staff supporting one participant, one staff supporting two participants or one staff supporting three participants. This will allow for some group activities among participants with the same provider with fewer staff involved, depending on the participant's needs.

Home Modifications & Vehicle Modifications (currently Environmental Modifications)

BAS will separate this service into two services: Home Modifications and Vehicle Modifications. The limitation on home modifications will increase from a limit of \$20,000 for the participant's lifetime to \$20,000 over a 10-year consecutive period per home. Thus, a new \$20,000 limit can be applied when the participant moves to a new home or when the 10-year period expires. Vehicle modifications will be limited to \$10,000 per participant during a 5-year period. These limitations are consistent with those in the Consolidated Waiver.

Occupational Therapy

This service will be removed from the waiver. It has never been used. It remains available through the State Plan or private insurance for those participants who need it.

Residential Habilitation – Family Living

Family Living settings are currently available as a service option in the waiver at two levels of support: low and high. The waiver will now include a medium level of support. Participants receiving Residential Habilitation- Family Living services will now be allowed to use Respite as well.

Family Support (currently Family Counseling and Family Training)

These two services will be combined into one service: Family Support. The Family Support service is used to develop and maintain relationships not only among the participant's family members, but also with friends, neighbors and others in his or her informal network. The service will continue to be limited to 20 hours per year.

Career Planning (currently Job Assessment and Job Finding)

In the renewal, all employment services except Transitional Work will be limited to supporting, finding and keeping competitive integrated employment or self-employment. The existing Job Assessment and Job Finding services will be combined and renamed, "Career Planning" to emphasize that they are two parts of a service to match a waiver participant to the most appropriate job that reflects their skills and preferences. It also conveys that the goal of the service is a career, not merely a job. This service will provide Vocational Assessment to identify a career direction, develop a plan for achieving competitive, integrated employment at or above the minimum wage, and Job Finding to obtain a job placement in competitive employment or self-employment.

Both components of this service will be billed in 15 minute units, but subject to time limits and review for re-authorization to ensure that it is being provided effectively.

Respite

Respite services will be available to participants receiving Residential Habilitation in Family Living settings but not those receiving Residential Habilitation in a Community Home.

Supported Employment

In the renewal, all employment services except Transitional Work will be limited to supporting, finding and keeping competitive integrated employment or self-employment.

Supported Employment will include two components: Intensive Job Coaching and Extended Employment Supports.

- Intensive Job Coaching will provide on-the-job training and support to assist participants in transitioning into a supported or self-employment situation. This service supports participants who require on-the-job support for more than 20% of their work week. Intensive Job Coaching at the same employment site must be reauthorized after 6 months and may only be reauthorized twice, for a total of 18 consecutive months of Job Coaching support for the same position.
- Extended Employment Supports are ongoing support available for an indefinite period as needed by the participant for 20% or less of their work week. It may be authorized up to a maximum of 240 hours per year, with the year starting on the ISP authorization date.
- Supported Employment may be provided both directly to the participant and indirectly to employers, co-workers or others who are involved in the participant's employment.

Temporary Supplemental Services (currently Temporary Crisis Services)

The name of this service will change to "Temporary Supplemental Services." This service previously focused on adding staff supports after a crisis had occurred. It has been revised to allow the addition of staff supports to assist in avoiding, as well as after, a participant has experienced a crisis. Temporary Supplemental Services is a closely-monitored service for a temporary increase in staffing in order to increase flexibility in providing additional support to a participant who is transitioning back from a crisis or whose risk of crisis or other negative outcome has increased. When a participant needs additional staff for a time-limited period while a long term response is put into place, Temporary Supplemental Services may be used.

Provider Qualifications:

All service providers (with the exception of Home Modifications) will be required to have Commercial General Liability Insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance, in accordance with State statute.

Quality Measures (All Appendices):

CMS has modified the current quality assurance system for 1915(c) waivers. These changes were made to strengthen the oversight of beneficiary health and welfare and realign reporting requirements. BAS is revising several performance measures, adding new measures, and removing some measures.