

Summary of the District's ID/DD Medicaid Waiver Renewal Application (released 4-26-17)

Since 2007, the District of Columbia has had a Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Persons with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD). Through this waiver program, which is overseen by the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) and administered by the Department on Disability Services (DDS), the District provides specialized home and community based care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who would otherwise need institutional treatment. This document provides background on the current waiver program and describes the District's proposed renewal.

Background

- Waiver authority: Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act authorizes state Medicaid programs to provide home and community-based services (HCBS) not usually covered by the Medicaid program to individuals who would otherwise require institutionalization. Under this authority, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) may waive three Medicaid State Plan requirements: statewideness, comparability of benefits, and State Plan financial criteria. To receive a waiver, states must designate the targeted population(s) and the type(s) of institutional care the waiver is designed to prevent. They must also demonstrate that the waiver is budget neutral—that is, the overall cost of the waiver program would not exceed the costs Medicaid would otherwise incur if the target population received institutional care.
- Current waiver program: The District's current ID/DD waiver targets persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities at risk for institutionalization in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs). CMS waived comparability of benefits and State Plan financial criteria.
- Waiver history: The District has already received two five-year waiver authorities from CMS and is now in the tenth year of the waiver program. The District is proposing a renewal that would extend the waiver another five years, to 11/19/22.
- Current program size: There are currently 1,752 waiver slots. The number of slots has increased by 10 percent over the last five years, from 1,592 to 1,752.
- Current services: The program offers 26 distinct waiver services, ranging from supported employment to respite care to in-home supports.

Proposed Changes in ID/DD Waiver Renewal: The District is proposing several changes to waiver requirements in the pending renewal, including:

- Increase in program size: The number of waiver slots for participation would increase gradually by nearly eight percent over the five-year waiver period, from 1,822 in waiver year 11 to 1,962 by waiver year 15.
- Added services: Parenting supports and assistive technology would be added to the list of available services for waiver participants.
- Services no longer covered: Environmental accessibility adaptation and vehicle modification (which has not been utilized) and personal emergency response system (which will be incorporated into the assistive technology service) would be removed from the list of available services.
- Changes to rate methodologies: The waiver proposes to change the reimbursement methodologies for three services: day habilitation, supported employment, and companion services.

Budget Neutrality

The waiver is projected to be budget neutral. The estimated difference in total Medicaid expenditures (i.e. the amount by which the projected waiver cost falls under projected Medicaid costs were the waiver not to exist) is as follows.

Proposed Waiver Year	Begins	# of Slots	Difference -- per Capita (\$)	Difference – Total (\$)
11	11/21/2017	1,822	-190,887	-347,796,944
12	11/21/2018	1,872	-194,488	-364,081,943
13	11/21/2019	1,902	-190,860	-363,015,749
14	11/20/2020	1,932	-203,975	-394,079,449
15	11/20/2021	1,962	-207,084	-406,298,966

Waiver Renewal Process

The District’s current five-year waiver authority ends on November 19, 2017. By this date, the District must draft a waiver renewal application, solicit and obtain public comments on the draft, revise the draft as necessary, and obtain final approval from CMS. The District must also amend its regulations to conform with any changes to the waiver program.

On Friday, April 21, 2017 DDS and DHCF will post the draft waiver renewal application, a summary highlighting substantive changes, and the detailed budget neutrality and rate calculations on their websites— <http://dds.dc.gov> and <http://dhcf.dc.gov>, respectively. The public comment period will last 30 days, concluding on Sunday, May 21, 2017.

The public can provide input in two ways.

1. Written comments on the posted documents may submitted to Erin Leveton, Program Manager, DDS State Office of Disability Administration, DDS, 250 E Street, SW, Washington DC 20024, or via e-mail at dds.publiccomments@dc.gov.
2. DHCF and DDS will hold a public forum during which written and oral comments on the proposed waiver renewal will be accepted. The public forum will be held at DDS, which is located on 250 E Street, SW, Washington DC 20024, on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 10 am.

For More Information

For additional information about the draft waiver or the waiver renewal process, contact Erin Leveton, Program Manager, DDS State Office of Disability Administration, at (202) 730-1754, erin.leveton@dc.gov