



# ODP Announcement

## Public Comment Opportunity – Appendices I and J of the Consolidated and P/FDS Waiver Renewals Effective July 1, 2017

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### ODP Communication Number 014-17

*The mission of the Office of Developmental Programs is to support Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence, choice and opportunity in their lives.*

**AUDIENCE:** Individuals and families, Administrative Entities, Supports Coordination Organizations and Providers of Consolidated or Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waiver services.

**PURPOSE:** To announce that the proposed renewals to Appendices I and J of the Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) waivers are available for public review and comment. Appendix I contains information about financial accountability and Appendix J contains information regarding the cost neutrality demonstration. **There is a 30-day public comment period on the information proposed in Appendices I and J that starts on February 18, 2017 and ends on March 21, 2017.**

**DISCUSSION:** The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to announce the opportunity for public comment on Appendices I and J of the Consolidated and P/FDS waivers. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approves waivers for a five-year period. The current Consolidated and P/FDS waivers expire on June 30, 2017. As such, ODP must submit renewals for these two waivers to CMS no later than March 30, 2017. The waiver renewals are anticipated to be effective on July 1, 2017. As part of this process, ODP is seeking your valuable feedback and comments on the proposed renewals to Appendices I and J.

The following substantive changes are proposed to Appendices I and J:

- The rate determination methods will include the proposed new services for which a Medical Assistance Fee Schedule Rate will be set: Advanced Supported Employment; Community Participation Support; Music, Art and Equine Assisted Therapy; Benefits Counseling;

Communication Specialist; Consultative Nutritional Services; Housing Transition and Tenancy Sustaining Services; Family/Caregiver Training and Support (excluding training registration and fees), and Supported Living.

- Effective January 1, 2018, rates for the following services in the Consolidated Waiver will transition to the Medical Assistance Fee Schedule: Unlicensed and Licensed Residential Habilitation, and Unlicensed and Licensed Life Sharing. When this occurs, Additional Individualized Staffing will not be available as a discrete service, as it will be included in the rate for Residential Habilitation and Life Sharing services.
- Registration and fees for the new Family/Caregiver Training and Support Service will have an outcome-based payment for vendor goods and services. In the P/FDS Waiver, the new Participant Directed Goods and Services will also have an outcome-based payment for vendor goods and services.
- The geographical areas for purposes of cost differences will be reduced from three to two. Wage and population data compiled during the rate development process drove the reduction.

ODP also proposes an annual limit of \$33,000 per person for P/FDS Waiver services in Appendix C-4. All P/FDS waiver services are included in the limit, with these exceptions:

- Supports Coordination and Supports Broker services.
- The limit can be exceeded by \$15,000 for Advanced Supported Employment or Supported Employment services that are authorized on a participant's service plan.

Information regarding the proposed Appendices I and J of the Consolidated and P/FDS waiver renewals, including how to provide comments, can be found in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, Volume 47, Number 7 published on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at: <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol47/47-7/295.html>.

The proposed documents regarding the appendices referenced in this communication are available at: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/developmentalprograms/2017waiverrenewals/>.

ODP will also hold two webinars to provide an overview, answer questions and receive comments on Appendices I and J. The dates, times and registration link to participate in these webinars are as follows:

- March 13, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- March 14, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The following link must be used to register for any of the above webinars <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/1327094422743979778>. Participants are able to participate in the webinar by phone, but will need a computer to provide comments during the webinar. To assist the Department in accurately capturing comments provided during the

webinars, individuals are asked to submit a written copy of their comments by email or mail to the address provided below. If you are unable to attend one of these sessions, a recording will be made available. ODP will publish a communication when the recording is available.

Persons with a disability who require an auxiliary aid or service may submit comments using the Pennsylvania Relay Service by dialing 711 or by using one of the following toll free numbers:

- (800) 654-5984 (TDD users)
- (800) 654-5988 (voice users)
- (844) 308-9292 (Speech-to-Speech)
- (844) 308-9291 (Spanish)

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding Appendices I and J of the waivers. Comments should be addressed to Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs, Division of Provider Assistance and Rate Setting, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Comments may also be submitted to ODP at [ra-ratesetting@pa.gov](mailto:ra-ratesetting@pa.gov). Use the subject header "Appendices I and J." **Comments received by midnight on March 21, 2017 will be reviewed and considered for revisions to the proposed renewals of the waivers. Please do not submit comments through the cloud as ODP staff are unable to access them.**

Copies of Appendices I and J of the Consolidated and P/FDS waivers may be obtained at the Office of Developmental Programs in the corresponding regions:

- *Western Region*: Piatt Place, Room 4900, 301 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, (412) 565-5144
- *Northeast Region*: Room 315, Scranton State Office Building, 100 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503, (570) 963-4749
- *Southeast Region*: 801 Market Street, Suite 5071, Philadelphia, PA 19107, (215) 560-2242 or (215) 560-2245
- *Central Region*: P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105, (717) 772-6507

**CONTACT:** Questions about this communication should be directed to [ra-ratesetting@pa.gov](mailto:ra-ratesetting@pa.gov).