Dear Stakeholder:

The Department of Social and Health Services’ Developmental Disabilities Administration is in the process of preparing amendments for waivers funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Affected waivers include:

- Individual and Family Services.
- Basic Plus.
- Core.
- Community Protection.
- Children’s Intensive In-Home Behavioral Support.

Stakeholders have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft waiver amendments before the amendments are sent to CMS. The official 30-day public comment is February 15, 2023, through March 16, 2023.

The amendments (359-660 pages) are available Feb. 15, 2023. A brief summary follows:

DSHS and Health Care Authority intend to amend the Individual and Family Services, Basic Plus, Core, Community Protection, and Children’s Intensive In-Home Behavioral Support waivers with an effective date of July 1, 2023. These amendments propose to:

- Add an agency provider type for the Residential Habilitation/Alternative Living service in the Core waiver. Currently only independent contractors offer this service in the Core waiver.
- Add an agency provider type for Stabilization Services – Crisis Diversion Bed serving children in the Basic Plus, Core, Children’s Intensive In-Home Behavioral Support and Individual and Family Services waivers. The new agency provider type will be a contracted and licensed Intensive Habilitation Service provider.
- Add the ability for trained DDA Case/Resource Managers, Social Service Specialists and Joint Requirement Plan staff to perform CARE Level of Care assessments virtually and obtain electronic signatures on Person-Centered Service Plans.
- Add people exiting Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families extended foster care or aging out of dependency as an additional priority group for waiver enrollment on the Basic Plus, Core, Community Protection, Children’s Intensive In-Home Behavioral Support and Individual and Family Services waivers. This priority group would join the existing priority groups, and include people who are:
  - Current waiver participants assessed to require a different waiver because their identified health and welfare needs have increased, and these needs cannot be met within the scope of their current waiver.
  - Priority populations as identified and funded by the Legislature.
  - Determined by DDA to be in immediate risk of Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities admission due to unmet health and welfare needs.
- Identified as a risk to the safety of the community.
- Currently receiving services through state-only funds.
- On an HCBS waiver that provides services in excess of what is needed to meet their identified health and welfare needs.
- Were previously on an HCBS waiver since 2004 and lost waiver eligibility per WAC 388-845-0060(1)(k).
- In need of the waiver services available in the Basic Plus or Individual and Family Services waivers to maintain them in their family’s home or in their own home.

We believe these proposed changes will have no negative impact on current or future DDA waiver participants.

The amendments can be read in their entirety on our website. Official notices are also located in the Washington State Register.

Send your comments to DDAWaiverAmendments@dshs.wa.gov during the comment period.

All future announcements of waiver amendments, waiver renewals and new waivers will be made using this communication system in addition to the Washington Register.