



EOHHS Public Listening Session

May 8, 2023

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Amendment Application: Children's Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver

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Thank you!

Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of Waiver Amendment Process and Current Waiver
- Summary of Changes Being Proposed
- Process and Timeline
- Public Comments

Common Acronyms and Terms

CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
EOHHS	Executive Office of Health and Human Services
HCBS	Home and Community Based Services
MassHealth	The Massachusetts Medicaid Program
DDS	Department of Developmental Services



Overview: Waiver Amendment Process

- CMS typically approves Home and Community Based Services waivers for a period of five years.
- During the five-year period, changes must be submitted to CMS in the form of a Request for an Amendment.
- MassHealth and DDS jointly developed this amendment application.
- The draft waiver amendment application is posted for a 30-day public comment period that ends on May 25, 2023.
- Today we are holding a listening session to hear public comments about the amendment application.



Overview: Children's Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver

- This waiver serves children, birth through age 8, with an autism spectrum disorder who meet clinical and financial eligibility criteria. With flexibilities allowed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the state expanded eligibility to children through age 9.
- The purpose of this waiver is to allow participants to receive Expanded Habilitation, Education and other services to help ensure that they can remain in their homes and actively participate with their families and community.
- This waiver uses an entirely Participant Directed service delivery method, in an acknowledgement that families know what is best for their child and should be the ones directing their interventions and support needs.

Summary of Proposed Changes in this Amendment

The state is proposing to:

- Increase the upper age limit for waiver eligibility by 1 year such that participants may remain eligible through age 9 (i.e., up to, but not including, the participant's 10th birthday). This increase is in effect currently due to COVID-19 flexibilities, but the state proposes to incorporate this change into the waiver so that it may remain in place.
- Add telehealth delivery options for the following services: Expanded Habilitation, Education; Behavioral Supports and Consultation; and Family Training.
- Increase the participant's maximum expenditure for services on a pro-rated basis for each waiver year by \$500, to \$9,000. This pertains to expenditures after the waiver participant has received their maximum three years of Expanded Habilitation, Education.

Summary of Proposed Changes in this Amendment (continued)

- Expand the amount of one-time funding that may be provided by \$1,000, to a maximum of \$6,000. This pertains to cases where a participant's needs exceed the waiver service limits, and funding is necessary to meet the participant's needs while other alternatives are coordinated or to meet emergency needs that are not expected to be long term.
- Remove the annual spending limit on Home Modifications and Adaptations, while maintaining the \$15,000 limit on these services per waiver period.
- Change pronouns throughout to be gender neutral.

Summary of Slot Amendment that is currently with CMS

- On April 3, 2023, the state submitted an amendment request to CMS to increase the number of participants that can be served in this waiver.
- The state requested the addition of 75 slots each year for waiver years 3 - 5 (2023 – 2025), totaling 225 new slots.
- We are operating under the assumption that CMS will approve these additional slots before the effective date of this proposed amendment.

Process: HCBS Waiver Amendment

1. DDS and MassHealth collaborate to identify updates
2. Gather public input
3. Review public comments and make additional revisions to the amendment application where appropriate
4. Request CMS approval
5. Implement updates when waiver amendment authorization period begins

Timeline

Request approval from CMS at least three months prior to desired effective date

Target submission date	Target effective date
June 2023	October 1, 2023

Public Comment: EOHHS requests public input

- Last day to submit comments: May 25, 2023
- Comments may be submitted via email or mail to EOHHS:
 - Email: HCBSWaivers@mass.gov (Please state “Children’s Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver Amendment Comments” on the subject line)
 - Mail: HCBS Waiver Unit, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, RE: Children’s Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver Amendment Comments, 1 Ashburton Place, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108
- Applications with the proposed changes and this presentation are posted online:
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/home-and-community-based-services-waiver-renewal-and-amendment-applications-public-input-process>
 - Hard copies of the applications with proposed changes are available upon request. Email request to HCBSWaivers@mass.gov (Please state “Children’s Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver Amendment Comments” in the subject line)

Public Comment: Oral Comments at Today's Listening Session

- Share your input with us today
 - Please state your name and affiliation (e.g., waiver participant, family member, waiver service provider, etc.)
- Oral comment at today's session does **not** need to be submitted in writing
- If you wish to provide comments but are unable to do so during today's session, please email or mail your comments by May 25, 2023.

Thank you!