

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and Waivers



Integrating an array of supports to achieve the vision of an Everyday Life: Historically, supporting people with disabilities revolved around the disability services system. But, truly it takes a variety of support to achieve a good life, not just the formal service system alone. Integrated supports include:

- Our personal strengths, assets, and interests
- Relationships that provide informal support
- Community resources we access and count on
- Technology
- Eligibility-based services (publicly or privately funded)”

From *The Community of Practice: Supporting Families across the Lifespan through the LifeCourse Framework*. Learn more at www.lifecoursetools.com or www.myODP.org

Publicly funded eligibility-based supports may include home and community based services (HCBS) through waivers (funding).

Waivers:

- Are possible when the federal government waives Medical Assistance (Medicaid / MA) rules for institutional care. This allows participants to receive services in their home and community.
- Are meant to help you live more independently in your home and community
- Fund an array of home and community based services that promote community living and engagement

Waiver services:

- Rely on available funds
- Are meant to meet your needs as reflected in your Individual Support Plan (ISP) and Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) form
- Are provided by specific willing and qualified providers
- Offer different levels of support. For instance from a few hours in the home and/or community to 24 hour residential
- Include community participation supports (CPS)
- Can be employment related and/or residential supports

Learn about more available services on the PA Department of Human Services (PA DHS) website. Also on the HCSIS SSD (Home and Community Services Information System Supports and Services Directory at www.hcsis.state.pa.us/hcsis-ssd/ServicesSupportDirectory/ServicesSupportHome.

Individuals registered with ODS may be eligible for one of these waivers. A person can only be enrolled in one waiver at a time. Some things to know about each:

Person Family Directed Support (P/FDS or PFD)

(www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Pages/PFDS-Waiver.aspx)

- no more than a \$41,000 annual budget (annual cap)
- the first \$15,000 of Supported Employment services do not count against the PFD cap
- Supports Broker service does not count against the PFD cap

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- cannot support ‘residential’ services

Community Living (CLW)

(www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Pages/Community-Living-Waiver.aspx)

- no more than a \$85,000 annual budget (annual cap)
- may include supported living or life sharing ‘residential’ services

Consolidated

(www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Pages/Consolidated-Waiver.aspx)

- no annual cap
- may include any ‘residential’ services

All waiver participants receive Supports Coordination services with no impact to their annual budget.

Learn more about Supports Coordination on the ODS Fact Sheet: www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/Publications/Resource-Guides/ODS-Fact-Sheets.aspx

What are some of the criteria that must be met to be eligible for these waivers?

- Be registered for services with ODS. *
- Require the appropriate level of care (LOC*)
- Be financially eligible. **

** For additional information about eligibility requirements call ODS at 412-253-1399*

***Income and assets (for instance, bank accounts or cashable life insurance or burial accounts) may not total more than the allowable limit. Only the individual’s income and assets are counted. No other family members affect financial eligibility. The PA Department of Human Services sets and reviews this amount annually and it is subject to change at that time. Check with your Supports Coordinator or County Assistance Office for the current requirements.*

How do I receive a waiver?

- Your Supports Coordinator (SC) will work with you to be sure your need for services and supports are included on your ISP (Individual Support Plan) and, when services funded through waiver are needed, they are reflected on your PUNS Form (Prioritization of Need for Services)
- PUNS Form information is shared with the County and State and used to prioritize individuals need for services funded through waiver
- You should inform your SC any time your needs change
- You will be informed when funding is available and be assisted by your SC in arranging services

How do I learn about additional ways to receive funded home and community based services?

To find out if you qualify for other waivers, like Community Health Choices (CHC), or Long Term Care Services contact your SC. You may also want to contact the PA Link to Aging and Disability Resource Center at 1-800-753-8827 or the PA Link to Community Care at www.carelink.pa.gov. You can only have one source of HCBS funding at any given time.



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For more information regarding ODS, including additional Fact Sheets visit alleghenycounty.us/dhs/ODS