

Community Supports Waiver

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Community Supports Waiver?

The Community Supports Waiver program will provide supports for individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities on the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Waiting List. The new program will provide a variety of community-based service options offered under the Community Pathways Waiver with the exception of residential services.

The goals of this new program include providing:

- (1) Innovative service options that support DDA's Community of Practices for Employment and Supporting Families;
- (2) Community-based service options offered under the current Community Pathways Waiver (e.g. Supported Employment, Employment Discovery & Customization, Personal Supports, Respite, Assistive Technology, Behavioral Supports, etc.) with the exception of residential services;
- (3) Self-direction opportunities;
- (4) Flexibility to move dollar amounts among line items within the approved person-centered plan to meet emerging and changing needs; and
- (5) Short-term exceptions to the overall budget caps of \$25,000 based on exceptional needs.

Additional information can be viewed on the DDA website at:

https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Community_Supports_Waiver.aspx

2. Who is eligible to be in the Community Supports Waiver?

Individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages, on the DDA Waiting List.

- All waiver participants will meet the criteria for developmental disability in accordance with Annotated Code of Maryland, Health - General Article, Section 7-701 (e) which is comparable to the federal definition found at 45 CFR 1385.3.
- All waiver participants must live in their home or the home of a family member.
- All waiver participants will: (1) Be assessed for their level of service need with consideration of available natural and community support to determine if waiver services will support their health and safety needs; and (2) Not be enrolled in another Medicaid 1915(c) waiver or PACE (a Medicaid capitated managed care program that includes long-term care).

3. What services will be offered through the Community Supports Waiver?

The services that will be provided through the Community Supports Waiver will mirror the services that are currently offered through the Community Pathways Waiver, with the exception of the Residential Services. It will also include the three new services proposed under the new Family Supports Waiver. The services have been broken down into three categories: Employment and Day Services, Support Services, and Self-Directed Support Services. For more information regarding the definition and scope of services, please see Appendix C and E of the Community Services Waiver application.

- Employment and Meaningful Day Services include:
 - Supported Employment
 - Transitional Employment Services
 - Employment Discovery and Customization
 - Community Development Services (formerly Community Learning Services)
 - Day Habilitation
 - Medical Day Care

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- Support Services include:
 - Assistive Technology and Services
 - Behavioral Support Services
 - Environmental Assessments
 - Environmental Modifications
 - Family Caregiver Training and Empowerment Services
 - Family and Peer Mentoring Supports
 - Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services
 - Participant Education, Training, and Advocacy Supports
 - Personal Supports
 - Respite Care Services
 - Transportation
 - Vehicle Modifications
- Self-Directed Support Services include:
 - Fiscal Management Services
 - Support Broker Services

4. Will a participant be able to self-direct all services offered through the Community Supports Waiver?

Participants will be able to self-direct all of the services except Day Habilitation, Medical Day Care, and Transitional Employment Services.

5. What are the service rates under the Community Supports Waiver?

The service rates will be the same as those currently used in the Community Pathways Waiver. For new services, DDA has collected data costs of similar services provided through agencies in Maryland and surrounding states. These rates will be used for providers of new services.

Once the rate study is completed, any changes to the current rates will be proposed to Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services CMS through an amended of the Community Supports Waiver federal application.

Current Community Pathways rates can be viewed at: <https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Pages/rates.aspx>

6. How do I apply for the Community Supports Waiver?

If you are on the DDA Waiting List, no action needs to be taken at this time. DDA will contact the first 400 individuals on the Waiting List based on priority category (i.e. Crisis Resolution, Crisis Prevention, Current Request) defined by regulations and date of application once the Community Supports Waiver has been approved. A DDA Coordinator of Community Services will then assist the individual and family with the waiver application process.

If you are not on the DDA wait list, but are interested in participating in the Community Supports Waiver, you must complete a DDA Eligibility Application and send it to the DDA Regional Office that supports the county you live in. The Regional Office will send you a letter that says if you are eligible to receive services and the priority category that you fit in that allows you to receive services. Individuals are then put on the DDA Waiting List and contacted when a slot is available for the waiver.

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For more information regarding the DDA application, please see information on the DDA website at: <https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Pages/eligibility.aspx>

or click the service link below:

[Click Here for the Eligibility Application](#) (PDF)

7. Can I be enrolled in the Community Supports Waiver now?

No, the Community Supports Waiver is expected to begin on January 1, 2018, pending the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval.

8. How many people can be in the Community Supports Waiver?

The Community Supports Waiver is designed to support the needs of 400 individuals.

9. How will DDA determine who will participate in the Community Supports Waiver?

Once the Community Supports Waiver is approved, DDA will contact the first 400 individuals on the DDA Waiting List based on priority category (i.e. Crisis Resolution, Crisis Prevention, Current Request) and date of application. A DDA Coordinator of Community Services will then assist the individual and family with the waiver application process.

10. Are individuals in REM excluded from the Community Supports Waiver?

No, individuals receiving supports under the Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) program will not be excluded from the new program. REM is part of the State's Health Choice State Plan program. It is not a home and community-based service waiver. Individuals will be able to receive both supports under the REM program and services under the new Community Supports Waiver.

11. Will the Community Supports Waiver replace the LISS funding program?

No, the LISS program will still be available to eligible individuals.

12. Will the Community Supports Waiver replace the Community Pathways waiver?

No, the new Community Supports Waiver will not replace the Community Pathways waiver.

13. How is the Community Supports Waiver different from the Community Pathways Waiver?

The Community Supports Waiver will offer up to \$25,000 in support services to 400 eligible Individuals. All of the services currently offered in the Community Pathways Waiver (with the exception of residential services) will be available to participants.

14. Can individuals in the Model Waiver, Autism Waiver, Community Pathways Waiver, or Family Supports Waiver be enrolled in the new Community Supports Waiver?

No. Federal requirements prohibit individuals from being enrolled in more than one home and community-based waiver program. Therefore, individuals and families will need to make a decision to which waiver program best meets their needs.

15. What if my loved one's needs exceed the scope of the Community Supports Waiver?

If your loved one is offered to apply to the Community Supports Waiver and it is determined that his/her needs exceed the scope of the Community Supports Waiver, he/she will be considered for the Community Pathways Waiver based on available slots.

16. Is there a limit to the amount of services I can receive through the Community Supports Waiver?

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Each participant in the Community Supports Waiver will receive a budget of \$25,000 to utilize the services, as they see fit, based on the individual's assessed needs. This waiver budget is capped at \$25,000.

17. Do I need to fill out an application if I am already on the DDA Waiting List?

No. Individuals on the DDA's Waiting List do not need to take any action at this time. DDA will contact the first 400 individuals on the Waiting List based on priority category and date of application once the Community Supports Waiver has been approved. A DDA Coordinator of Community Services will then assist the individual and family with the waiver application process. Individuals and families may contact the DDA Regional Office to confirm their placement on the DDA Waiting List.

18. How would applying to the Community Supports Waiver affect my position on the DDA Waiting List?

If the Community Supports Waiver is able to meet the person's needs and the person meets the waiver eligibility criteria, then the person will be removed from the DDA Waiting List as they will be placed in services. For individuals that the Community Supports Waiver will not meet their needs or do not meet the waiver eligibility criteria, they will remain on the DDA Waiting List.

19. What if my needs have changed since being placed on the DDA Waiting List?

Individuals and families should inform their Coordinator of Community Services or contact the DDA Regional Office to share information about current needs, status, and update contact information.

20. How does a provider become eligible to provider services through the new Community Supports Waiver?

The qualifications for providers for each service offered through the Community Supports Waiver can be found in Appendix C of the federal application after each service description.

DDA is working on a streamlined application process for providers that are interested in providing services through the new Community Supports Waiver. New provider applications and information about the process will be posted on the DDA website at the end of September. DDA will be accepting applications in October.

21. Will there be an opportunity to share input on the Community Supports Waiver federal application?

Yes. The Community Supports Waiver application will be posted on the DDA website on August 14, 2017. Questions or comments about the Community Supports Waiver can be submitted wfb.dda@maryland.gov through September 12, 2017.