



# NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: February 6, 2024

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MEDI-CAL HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS) 1915(c) WAIVER FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requests input from beneficiaries, providers, and other interested stakeholders concerning a proposed amendment to the Medi-Cal 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for the Developmentally Disabled (HCBS-DD Waiver). A copy of which is attached.

Under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act), Welfare & Institutions (W&I) Code section 4500 et seq., people with developmental disabilities, as defined in W&I Code section 4512(a), are eligible to receive services and supports that meet their individual needs and choices as defined in W&I Code section 4512(a). The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) administers the Lanterman Act.

DDS administers the HCBS-DD Waiver. DDS ensures, under the oversight of DHCS as the State Medicaid agency, that the HCBS-DD Waiver is implemented by regional centers in accordance with Medicaid law and the State's approved Waiver application. Regional centers coordinate, provide, and arrange or purchase the services and supports available under the HCBS-DD Waiver. Information about the HCBS-DD Waiver can be found at [www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/hcbs/](http://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/hcbs/)

This amendment proposes to:

- Add telehealth as a delivery method for specified services.
- Add group homes for children with special health care needs as a new provider of community living arrangement services.
- Add participant-directed as a service delivery method for self-directed support services.

The fiscal impact of this amendment is estimated to be \$910,000 in waiver year two (2) and \$1,820,000 in waiver years three (3). All proposed HCBS-DD Waiver amendments must be approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to be effective.



## Public Review and Comments

DHCS plans to submit the proposed waiver amendment to CMS by March 31, 2024, for a proposed effective date of July 1, 2024.

A copy of the proposed waiver amendment will be posted on February 6, 2024, at <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Medi-CalWaivers.aspx> and at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/hcbs/>.

Copies of the proposed amendment can be obtained by sending a written request to the mailing or email addresses listed below, or by visiting your local regional center. Please indicate 'HCBS Waiver' in the subject line or message.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Developmental Services

Attn: Jonathan Hill

1215 O Street MS 7-40

Sacramento, CA 95814

Email [Federal.Programs@dds.ca.gov](mailto:Federal.Programs@dds.ca.gov)

To be assured consideration prior to DHCS' submission of the waiver amendment to CMS, comments must be received no later than March 7, 2024. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after March 7, 2024, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of the HCBS-DD waiver amendment to CMS.