



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: October 10, 2025

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 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/

This amendment proposes to:

- Implement final rate adjustments as a result of rate reform,
- Add Trainer as a new provider type and payment methodology under Communication Aides,
- Add a new service titled Remote Support Services and a corresponding provider type and payment methodology for the service, and
- Add supplemental payments for providers for excess mileage.
- The fiscal impact of this amendment is estimated to be \$7,526,351,788 in waiver year four (4) and \$7,756,095,672 in waiver year five (5). 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 November 28, 2025, for a proposed effective date of March 1, 2026.

A copy of the proposed waiver amendment will be posted on October 10, 2025, 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

To be assured consideration prior to DHCS' submission of the waiver amendment to CMS, comments must be received no later than November 9, 2025. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after November 9, 2025, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of the HCBS-DD waiver amendment to CMS.