



NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: February 6th, 2026

RENEWAL OF 1915(c) HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS) SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM WAIVER

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requests input from beneficiaries, providers, and other interested stakeholders concerning the renewal application for the Medi-Cal 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Self-Determination Waiver (SDP Waiver), a copy of which is attached. DDS intends to renew the Waiver for a five-year period from July 2026 to June 2031.

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 SDP Waiver. DDS ensures, under the oversight of DHCS as the State Medicaid agency, that the SDP Waiver is implemented in accordance with Medicaid law and the State's approved Waiver application. SDP provides individuals and their families more freedom, increased flexibility in the person-centered planning process, and greater control of an individual budget, allowing them to direct and choose services and supports that best suit their needs. SDP supports individuals by helping them meet objectives in their Individual Program Plan (IPP) while maintaining their independence and promoting integration within the community. Information about the SDP Waiver can be found at www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/hcbs/

Proposed major changes in this waiver renewal application include:

- Add telehealth as a service delivery method for: community integration services; behavioral intervention services; speech, hearing and language services; and psychology services;
- Describe the recently implemented standardized Individual Program Plan template;



- Adjust the methodology by which Financial Management Services (FMS) are reimbursed for their services;
- Update performance measures to more accurately reflect monitoring protocols; and,
- Update Participant Rights and Participant Safeguards sections to reflect the state's current procedures and reporting requirements.

All waiver renewal applications 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 renewal application to CMS no later than March 30, 2026, for a proposed effective date of July 1, 2026.

A copy of the proposed waiver amendment will be posted on February 6th, 2026, 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 'SDP 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 March 8th, 2026. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after March 8th, 2026, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of the SDP waiver amendment to CMS.