



Office of Developmental Programs Updates

State Taskforce Meeting
January 21, 2026





Consolidated, Community Living, and Person/Family Directed Support Waivers

Waiver Amendments
January 1, 2026 Changes



Performance-Based Contracting for Supports Coordination



To improve quality, ODP is changing the Supports Coordination services are managed. This new way of managing is called performance-based contracting.



The focus of performance-based contracting is on improving outcomes for individuals through new quality standards and aligning payment with outcomes.

The January 1, 2026 waivers include the implementation of Performance-Based Contracting for Supports Coordination.

Supported Employment and Advanced Supported Employment Changes

- ODP has a range of services that can help people wherever they are on their employment journey.
 - Includes Supported Employment and Advanced Supported Employment
- When the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is utilizing an order of selection with a wait list for any priority category in effect, participants on the wait list may receive Supported Employment or Advanced Supported Employment through this waiver in accordance with ODP policy.
- [ODP Announcement 25-028](#)



Benefits Counseling Changes

- Providers can bill Benefits Counseling when communicating with the individual's Representative Payee who is appointed by the Social Security Administration.
- Prior to communicating with the individual's Representative Payee, Benefits Counseling providers are required to ask the individual if they would like to be included in the discussion and document the individual's preference in a service note.

Requirement to Serve Three (3) People

- Starting July 1, 2026, current Providers of Community Participation Support, In-Home and Community Support, and Companion must provide ODP waiver services to at least 3 people each year.
- Why: We often hear that people cannot find providers to fully meet their needs for these services. ODP has about 150 providers serving less than 3 people and we believe they can serve people who need these services.
- This does not apply to Participant Directed Services (PDS).



Community Participation Support

- Community Participation Support service includes activities such as community activities, skill development, and activities in licensed adult training facilities and vocational facilities.
- These changes are focused on vocational facilities which are required to provide prevocational services.

Community Participation Support Changes

- Effective January 1, 2027, prevocational facilities must be an approved vendor for OVR Supported Employment services and provide documentation of acceptance of OVR referrals for OVR funded Supported Employment.
- Why: Prevocational facilities assist people to develop basic skills necessary to pursue competitive integrated employment. This change ensures that these facilities have the capacity to continue to support people when they choose to pursue competitive integrated employment.

Assistive Technology Changes

Consolidated Waiver:	Community Living and P/FDS Waivers
Replace the \$10,000 lifetime limit on Assistive Technology with a \$3,000 annual limit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No general limit on Assistive Technology.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Generators will continue to have a lifetime limit of \$5,000.
The variance process can continue to be used for individuals who need more than \$3,000 in Assistive Technology in a year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistive Technology will continue to be included in the annual limit on all waiver services in Appendix C-4.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Person/Family Directed Support Waiver limit is \$47,000▪ Community Living Waiver limit is \$97,000
Generators will continue to have a lifetime limit of \$5,000 (not included in the \$3,000 annual limit).	



Adult Autism Waiver (AAW)

Waiver Renewal



AAW Renewal Effective July 1, 2026

- The current 5–year approval for the AAW expires on June 30, 2026.
- ODP held 2 listening sessions in March 2025 and drafted proposed changes based on recommendations and needs.
- Proposed changes were published on January 16th for public comment.

Changes that Align with Other ODP Waivers

- Assistive Technology
 - Change the \$10,000 lifetime limit on Assistive Technology to a \$3,000 annual limit. Individuals who need more than \$3,000 in Assistive Technology in a year may still request an exception.
- Vehicle Modifications
 - Change the service limit from \$10,000 per person every 5 years to \$20,000 per participant every 10 years.
- Residential Habilitation and Life Sharing will be 2 separate services
 - Life Sharing is currently under the Residential Habilitation service.

Supported Employment and Career Planning Changes

- Changes made to both the Career Planning and Supported Employment services to provide greater flexibility and access to these services.
- Career planning: The reauthorization requirement for the vocational assessment component of the service was extended from 90 days to 6 months.
- Supported Employment: The Intensive Job Coaching and Extended Employment Support components were removed from the service definition, including the different procedure codes. All Supported Employment activities will continue to be covered under one procedure code.

Additional Proposed Changes



Therapy

The Speech Therapy component of the Therapy service will be removed due to lack of utilization.



Respite

Respite providers must render ODP home and community-based services to a minimum of 1 separate and distinct participant each plan year.




Home Modification

The cost for modifications which require three bids will increase from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Resources: Waivers

- Waivers can be accessed at:
 - [Consolidated Waiver | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
 - [Community Living Waiver | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
 - [Person/Family Directed Support Waiver \(PFDS\) Waiver | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
 - [Proposed Renewal of the Adult Autism Waiver](#)
- Performance-Based Contracting
 - [Performance-Based Contracting – MyODP](#)



Multi-Year Program Growth Strategy (MYPGS)



Multi-Year Program Growth Strategy (MYPGS)

- The Shapiro Administration began a multi-year strategy to expand access to home and community-based services and effectively end the emergency waiting list for adults with intellectual disabilities and autism.
 - This includes adding waiver program capacity to the Community Living and Consolidated Waivers.
 - February 2024: Additional 1,250 Community Living and an additional 400 Consolidated
 - FY 24–25: Additional 1,250 Community Living and an additional 250 Consolidated
 - Shifting to management by budget rather than waiver slots

Multi-Year Program Growth Strategy (MYPGS) cont.

- As of 11/30/2025, the Adult (age 21+) Emergency waiting list is at 3,205 individuals
- This represents a 30% decrease since Governor Shapiro's announcement in February 2024 of a new multi-year strategy to end the waiting list for adults on the emergency list.
- During the Shapiro Administration, ODP has grown the Intellectual Disabilities/Autism(ID/A) program significantly.
- More than 4,000 people with ID/A have been enrolled in waivers from the emergency waiting list