

# TRANSITIONING YOUTH FROM THE AUTISM WAIVER At a Glance



## COVID-19 *Temporary changes*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some Transitioning Youth (TY) have not completed the DDA Waiver Application process or identified service providers to support their chosen outcomes. Several TY and families have selected providers and made decisions based on provider services models and service hours prior to the crisis which may now need to be reconsidered. To support the immediate need for services and supports, and provide flexibility with the DDA Waiver application processes, the DDA has been working with the Maryland State Department of Education and Medicaid to share these exceptions to the typical processes and requirements.

### Extension of Transition Timeframe for Autism Waiver Participants

- A provision of the [Autism Waiver Appendix K](#) authority includes the ability to remain enrolled through the state of emergency. This means TY participants who would otherwise age out and be disenrolled from the Autism Waiver on June 30th can remain in the Autism Waiver even though they have concluded their entitled educational services.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, TY have not been able to complete the DDA Waiver Enrollment Application process or identify DDA-licensed service providers to support their goals. Several TYs and families have selected providers and made decisions based on provider services models and service hours prior to the crisis, which may now need to be reconsidered as the TY needs and/or the individual provider's service delivery models may have changed significantly.
- To support participants in the Autism Waiver and their families in making an informed decision as to whether to disenroll from the Autism Waiver on June 30th or to continue in the Autism Waiver and transition at a later date, all eligible TY and families should:
  - Be advised of their rights and options to remaining in the Autism Waiver or transition to the DDA Waiver once meeting the eligibility requirements;
  - Explore and receive information about:
    - Autism Waiver services currently available, including any new or increase in services that are available if they remain in the Autism Waiver from their Autism Waiver Service Coordinator;
    - The DDA Meaningful Day service delivery models and level of services available due to the COVID-19 pandemic from their DDA Coordinator of Community Services and selected providers.
    - Autism Waiver Providers and selected DDA providers may now only be supporting people via remote, virtual, and/or other limited direct support methods due to the COVID-19 pandemic affecting site-based services.
    - Hours, duration, and method of support may vary depending on the selected provider's capacity.
    - Service options proposed prior to the pandemic may not be available at this time and should be communicated and considered.

### Important

- If the Transitioning Youth's and their families decision is to remain in the Autism Waiver and their DDA Waiver application has already been approved for a July 1st date, the decision must be communicated as soon as possible to their Coordinator of Community Services no later than June 16, 2021 so that the DDA can advise the Department's Eligibility Determination Division (EDD) to not disenroll the person from the Autism Waiver at this time.
- Autism Waiver participants that have not completed the DDA Waiver application process will remain in the Autism Waiver.
- Remaining in the Autism Waiver during this state of emergency will not jeopardize the opportunity to apply for the DDA Transitioning Youth services.

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