



Developmental Disabilities Administration Community Pathways Proposed Medicaid Waiver Amendment Stakeholder Engagement Webinar

March 4, 2026



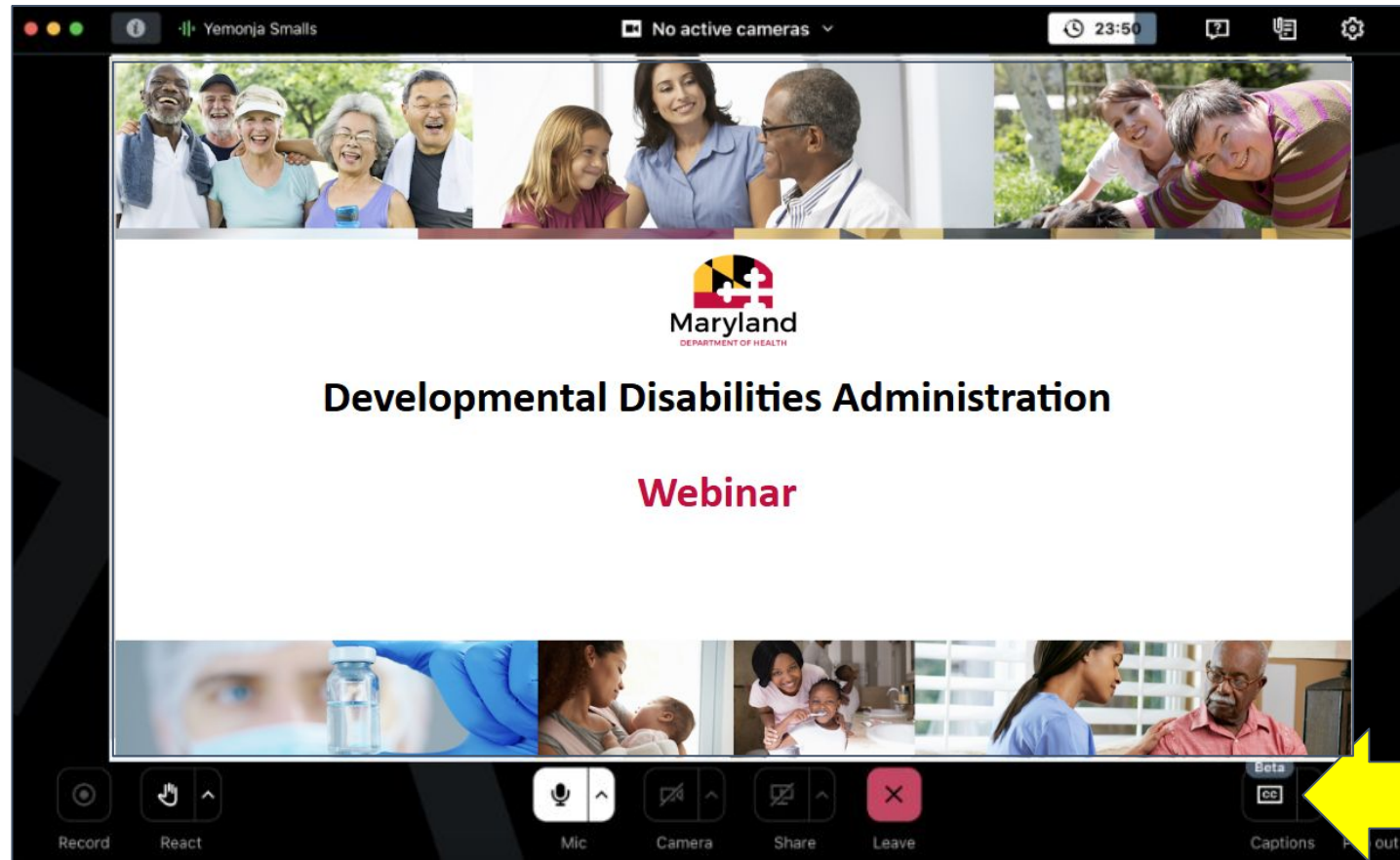


Developmental Disabilities Administration

Webinar

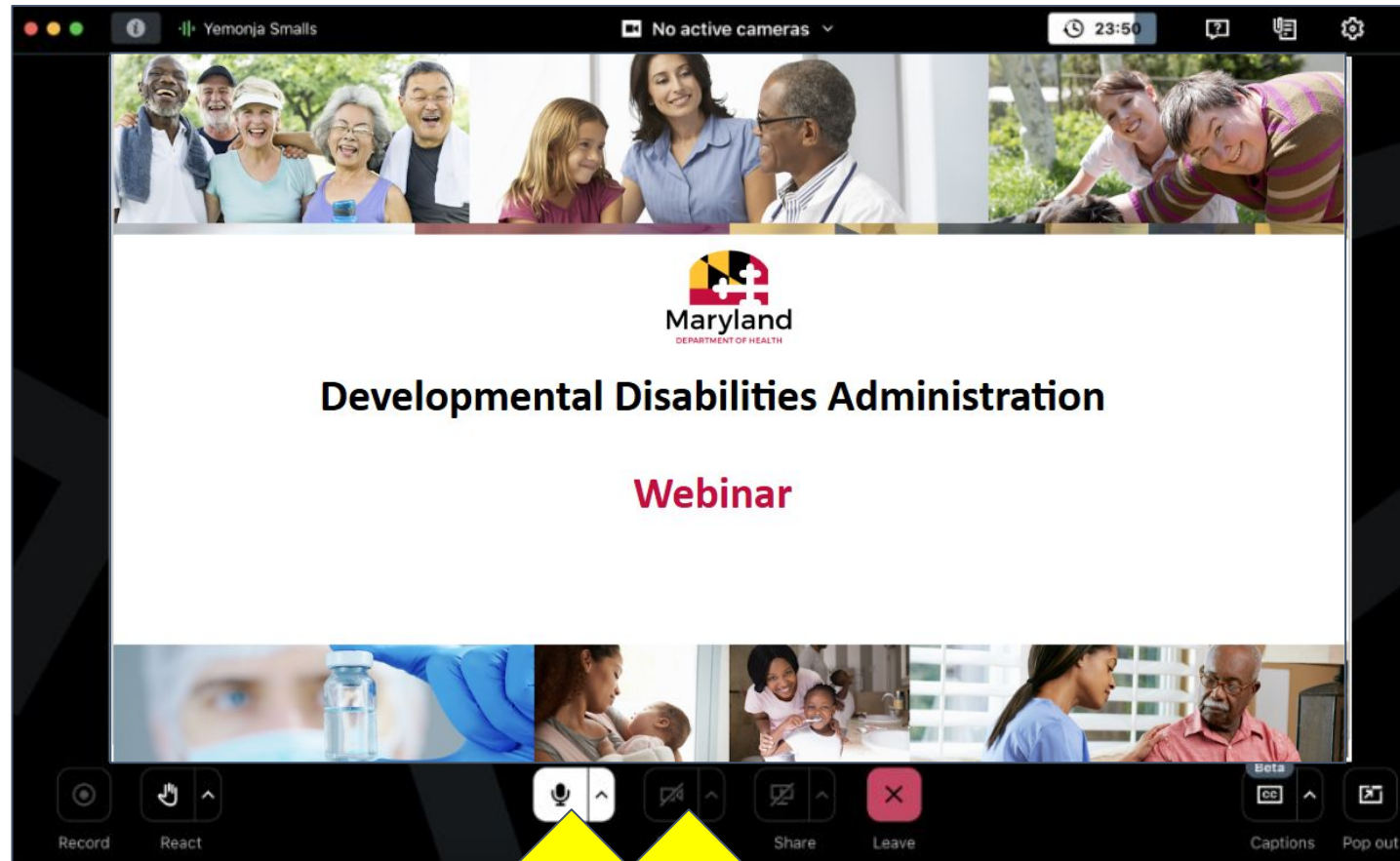


Housekeeping - Closed Captioning



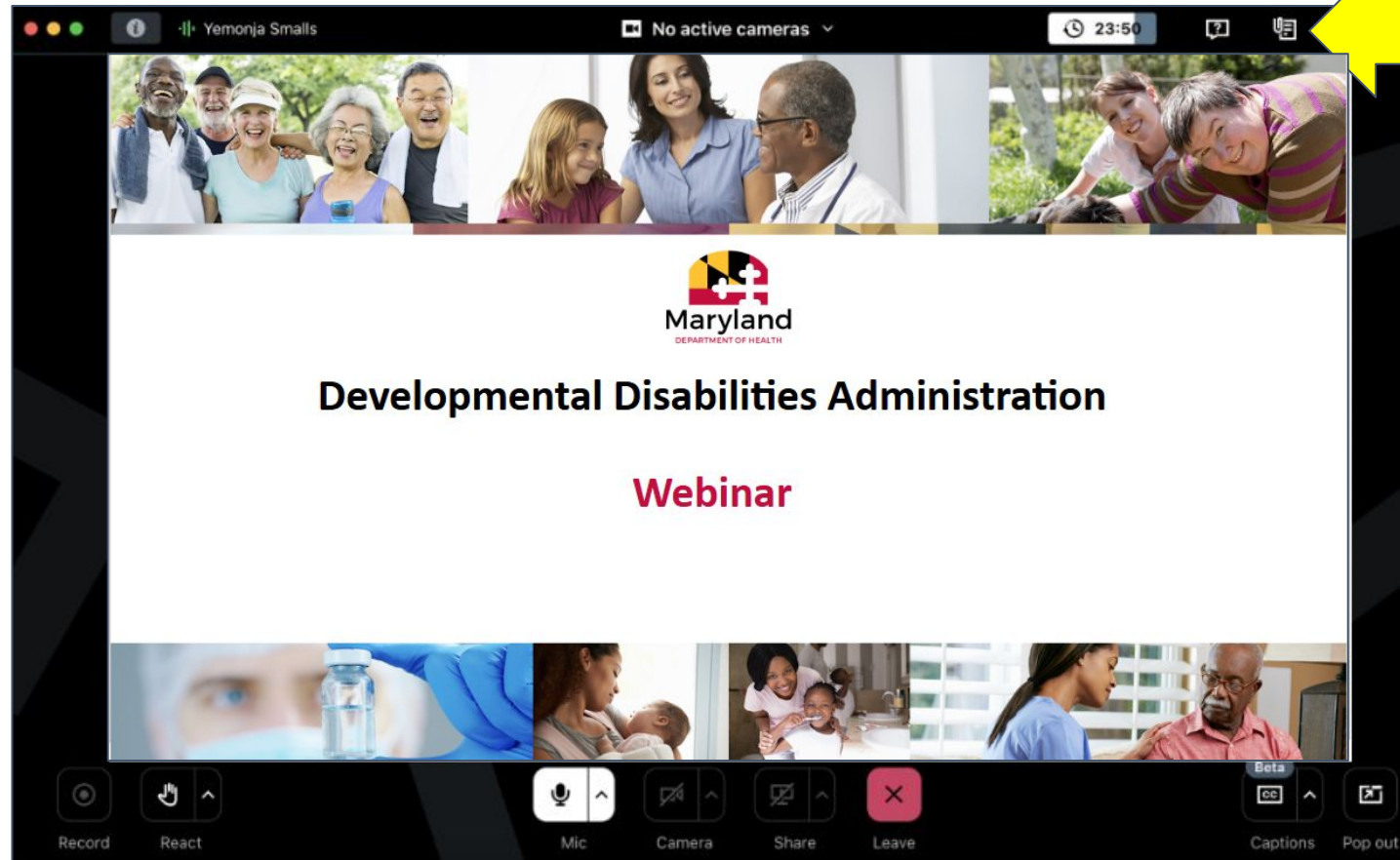
Click the CC button here for closed captioning

Housekeeping - Mics and Cameras



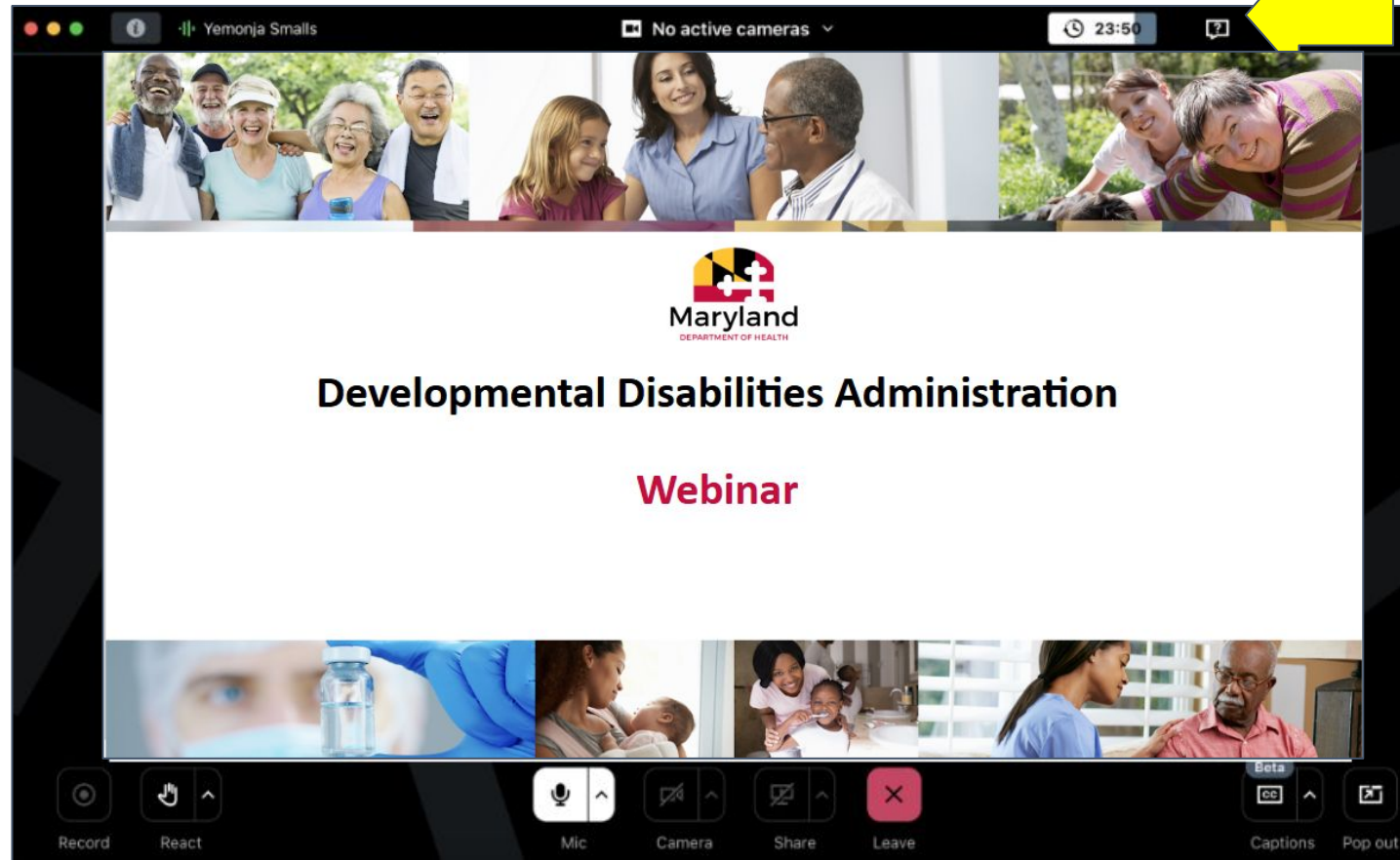
Mics and Cameras are turned off

Housekeeping - Handouts



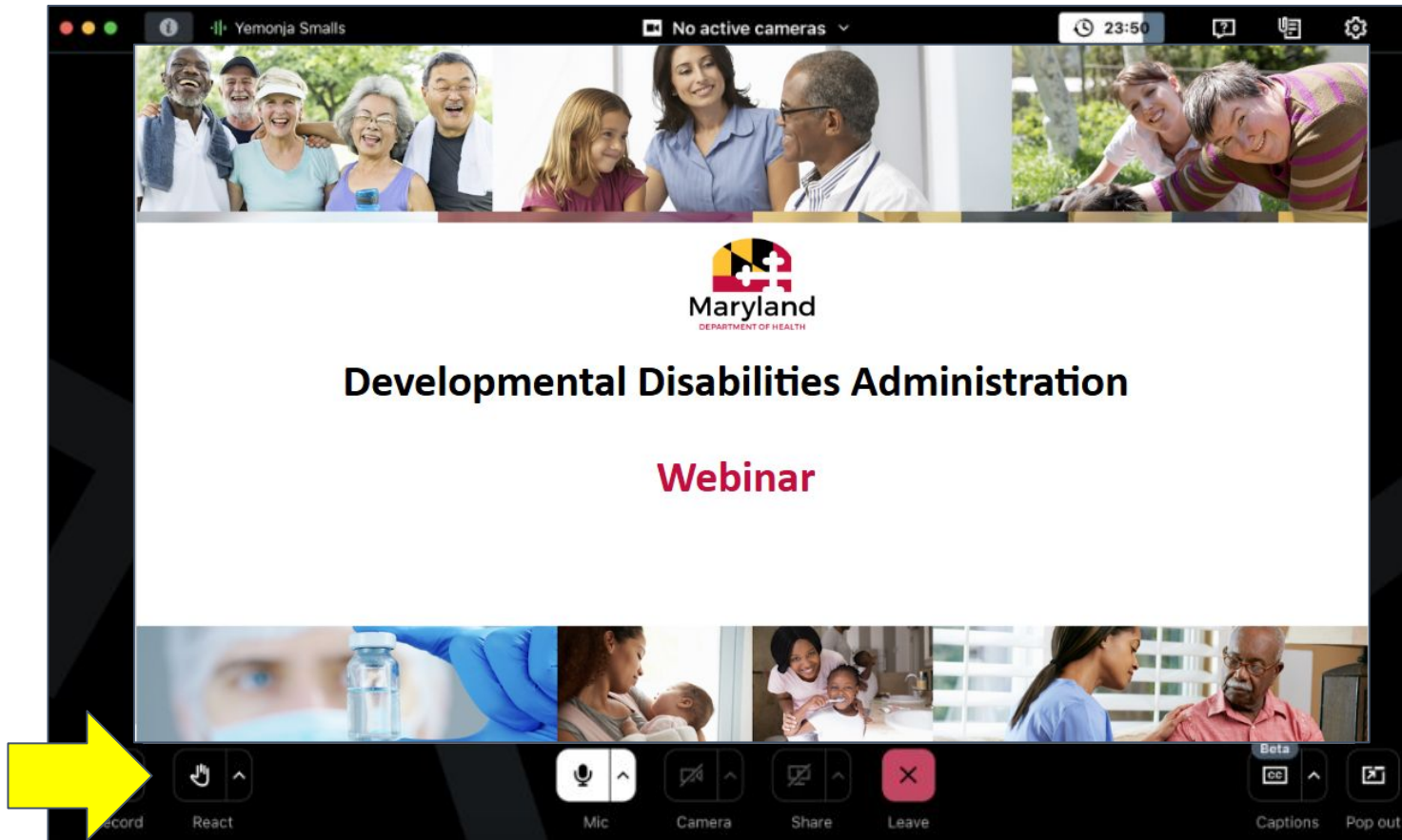
Click the paperclip to download handouts

Housekeeping - Questions



Click the question mark to type a question for us

Housekeeping - Raise Hand



Click the hand icon to raise your hand

Conduct

The free expression of diverse viewpoints is a fundamental value of our group. This freedom carries the responsibility to engage respectfully, which means treating one another with dignity and respect in good faith.

Uncivil behavior, disruptive actions, abusive language, threats, or harassment will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the meeting.

Welcome

Agenda

- What is a Medicaid Waiver Amendment?
- Amendment Proposal
- Public Comment
- Resources

Proposed Waiver Amendment 2026

What is a Medicaid Amendment?

Medicaid Waiver Amendment

- A Medicaid waiver amendment is a request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to make changes to a Medicaid waiver program.
- DDA operates the Community Pathways Medicaid waiver program.
- A Community Pathways Medicaid waiver amendment proposal has been drafted for public input.

Medicaid Waiver Organization

Amendment Request

Appendix A - Waiver Administration and Operation

Appendix B - Participant Access and Eligibility

Appendix C - Participant Services

Appendix D - Participant-Centered Planning and Service Delivery

Appendix E - Participant Direction of Services

Appendix F - Participant Rights

Appendix G - Participant Safeguards

Appendix H - Systems Improvement

Appendix I - Financial Accountability

Appendix J - Cost Neutrality Demonstration

Proposed Waiver Amendment 2026

**Budget Bill Items That Require Waiver
Amendment**

Current Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Bill/Draft Waiver Amendment Crosswalk

Budget Bill	Proposed Waiver Amendment
<p>Implementation of an individual budget cap of \$500,000 for Person-Centered Plans, and implementation of an exceptions process to safeguard health and safety.</p>	<p>The proposed waiver amendment will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Apply a \$500,000 Person-Centered Plan budget authorization cap;● Create a budget cap exception process that supports health and safety within the waiver service limitations.

Waiver Amendment 2026 - Public Comments

What we are hearing

What we are hearing

- Exception cap of \$625,000
- Language related to discharge plans

What we have done:

- We have removed the \$625,000 cap
- We have removed the discharge plan language

Proposed Waiver Amendment 2026

Community Pathways

Purpose

The purpose of this amendment is to:

- Establish a \$500,000 annual budget limit (cap) for Person-Centered Plans
- Create a budget cap exception process for plans that exceed the \$500,000 cap

Proposed Waiver Amendment 2026

Appendix B - Participant Access and Eligibility Updates


Individual Cost Limit

Proposed Waiver Amendment	Reasons
Implement a \$500,000 person-centered plan budget authorization cap.	Budget program sustainability requirement and supports the federal cost neutrality assurance.

Budget Cap Exception Process

Proposed Waiver Amendment	Reasons
A budget cap exception process will be used for plans that support health and safety within the waiver service limitations.	Provide opportunity to support individuals with a higher level of support needs.

Budget Cap Exception Process Standards (1 of 2)

Proposed Waiver Amendment	Reasons
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Behavior Support Plan and supporting documentation demonstrating the support need for 1:1 or 2:1 staff-to-participant ratio necessary to support the person with specific behavioral needs.2. Nursing Care Plan and supporting documentation demonstrating the support need for 1:1 or 2:1 staff-to-participant ratio necessary to support the person with specific health and safety needs.	<p>To support standardize process and supporting documentation to support people with behavioral needs.</p> <p>To support standardize process and supporting documentation to support people with specific health and safety needs.</p> 

Budget Cap Exception Process Standards (2 of 2)

Proposed Waiver Amendment	Reasons
3. Difference between standard and geographical rates results in the plan exceeding the budget cap.	To support needs in a fair and equitable way regardless of region the person lives in.
4. The State will adjust the \$500,000 Person-Centered Plan budget authorization cap based on applicable annual rate changes.	To support rate changes.

Supporting Documentation (1 of 3)

Additional documentation of assessed needs may be submitted with the plan. This may include formal health, communication, or behavioral assessments completed by qualified professionals, such as:

- Physicians
- Mental health professionals
- Behavioral specialists
- Special educators
- Other licensed health professionals, as appropriate

Supporting Documentation (2 of 3)

Requests for enhanced rates, overnight support, or “1:1” or “2:1” staffing must be clearly justified. A general statement or prescription saying extra staff is needed is not enough. The documentation must explain:

- The specific needs that require additional staff
- What tasks and supports staff will provide
- When and why extra staff are needed
- What training or skills staff must have

Supporting Documentation (3 of 3)

- The planning team must also consider other ways to meet the person's needs, including the use of technology and remote supports, before requesting enhanced rate, overnight supports, and dedicated staff.

Waiver Amendment 2026

Resources

Amendment Resources (1 of 2)

DDA created a dedicated webpage for the [Community Pathways Amendment #4 2026](#) with detailed information about the proposed changes.

- Track change documents are available so readers can clearly see what updates are included in the amendment.
- These documents are provided in both color and black-and-white versions to support accessibility, including compatibility with screen readers.

Amendment Resources (2 of 2)

- Hard copies of the proposal is available for public review and comment. Individuals may request a copy by:
 - Emailing wfb.dda@maryland.gov
 - [Calling DDA](#)
 - Visiting a [DDA Regional Office](#) or [MDH headquarters](#)
- Individuals may also ask their Coordinator of Community Services or service provider for help getting a hard copy.

Upcoming Webinars

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, from 12 - 1:30 p.m. - general overview of proposed changes, updates, and questions and answer session - [Register Here](#)

***New* - Wednesday, March 11, 2026, from 6 - 7:30 p.m.** - general overview of proposed changes, updates, and questions and answer session - [Register Here](#)

Waiver Amendment 2026

Public Comment

Timeline and Next Steps

- Public Comment Period
 - **March 2, 2026 - April 1, 2026**
- Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Review
 - **April 6, 2026 - June 30, 2026**
- Proposed Waiver Amendment Effective Date
 - **July 1, 2026**

Public Comment Process

- Public comments can be:
 - Submitted to wfb.dda@maryland.gov; or
 - Mailed to: DDA Federal Programs at 201 West Preston Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore MD 21201
- To be considered, all public comments must be submitted by **11:59 PM on April 1, 2026.**

Questions and Public Comment

- Please raise your hand if you would like to speak
- Each person will have two (2) minutes to speak

NOTE: To ensure confidentiality, if you have a question specific to an application, eligibility, or services, please contact the DDA Regional Office directly

Public Comment

02:00