

Overview: Proposed Amendment to the Community Pathways Medicaid Waiver

The Developmental Disabilities Administration is asking the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to approve changes to the Community Pathways Medicaid waiver.

These changes are needed to ensure the program can continue providing essential services. In addition, these changes are required by the State's 2027 budget.

Below is a plain-language summary of the waiver amendment.

DDA is hosting a series of webinars to walk through all of these changes in more detail. You can register at the links [on our website](#).

Simple Summary of Changes

Updated Rules for Sharing Staff Time (Dedicated Hours)

Sometimes one staff person can help more than one individual in the home. This is allowed if:

- It meets everyone's needs, **and**;
- It is written in each person's plan, **and**;
- At least one of the following is true:
 - The participants get **less than 30 hours of day services** per week.
 - Currently, the waiver says shared hours are allowed if the participants get less than 40 hours of day services.
 - **This is the only change to shared hours.**
 - The participants are **retired**.
 - The participants are **recovering from illness**.

Providers still may only bill for one person for that staff time.

New Limits for Providing Paid Support (60/40 Rule)

If a **relative, guardian, or legally responsible person is paid to support** one or more participants:

- They can work up to **40 hours per week total (per participant)**. This went into effect last year.
 - They can work up to **60 hours per week total (across all people they support)**.
 - Each participant can receive a **total of up to 60 hours per week from all relative/guardian/legally responsible providers combined**.
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Changes to Self-Directed Funding

- Funding will be based on:
 - **New self-directed service rates**
 - **Rates are based on:**
 - **Bureau of Labor Statistics wages**
 - **Employer-related costs, like paying payroll taxes**
 - **Costs like training and transportation**
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Self-Direction Clarification

People who self-direct can:

- Choose their own workers (including agencies or individuals)

Language changes:

Current language	New language
Vendor	Individual provider

Change in who pays for Financial Management and Counseling Services Fees (FMCS)

- These fees will now be **paid separately by the State**
 - They will **NOT come out of the person's budget**
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Updated Budget and Cost Estimates

The State must show how waiver services cost less than institutional services.

- The State updated these details in the waiver documents:
 - How much services cost
 - How many people use services
 - This is based on **new, more accurate data**
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