



Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

Waiver Amendment 2025

Waiver Changes and You

September 16, 2025



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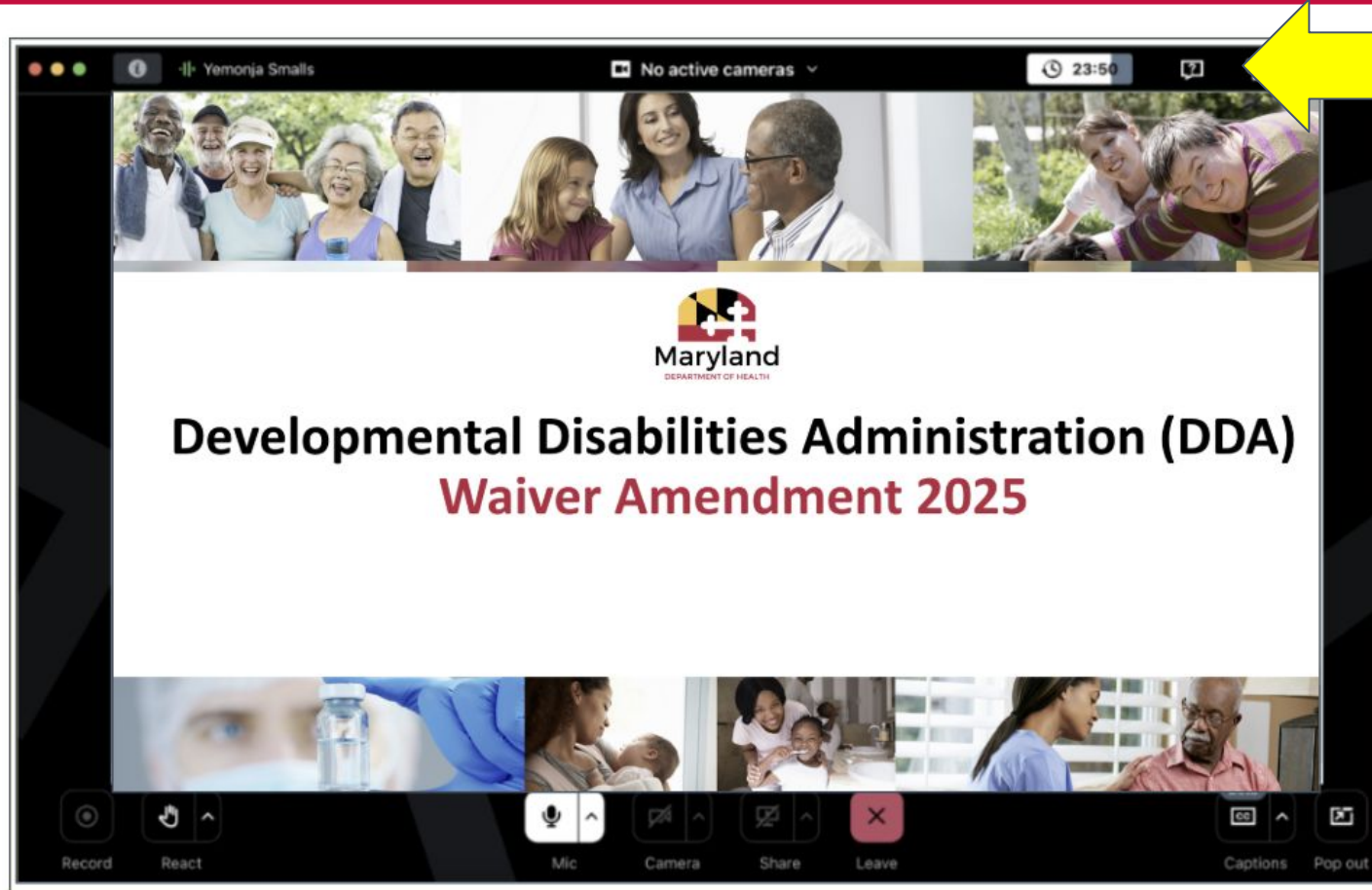
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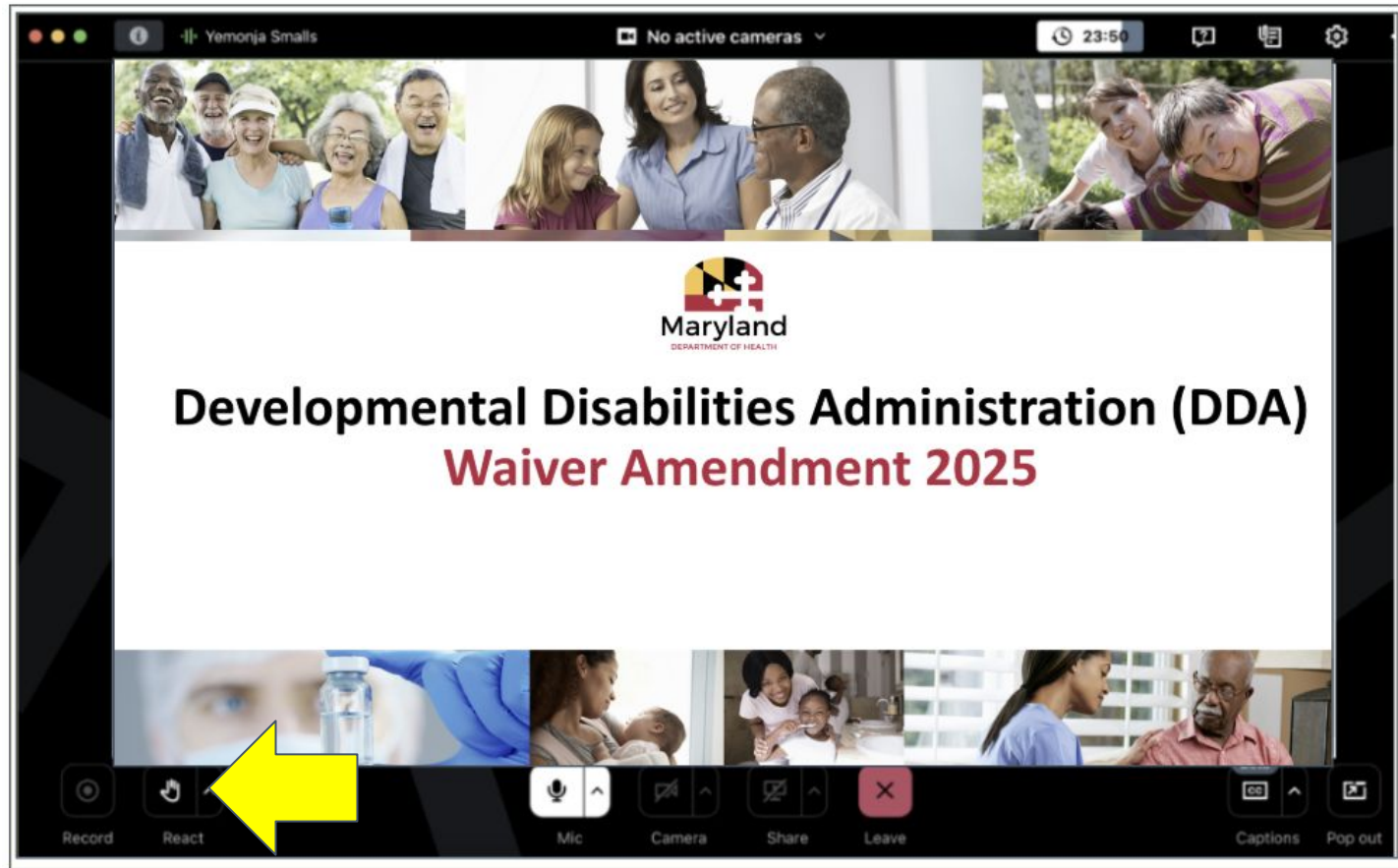
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Housekeeping



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

- Overview
- Waiver Program Changes: What you Need to Know
- Changes to the Services the DDA Provides
- New Visit Requirements for Coordinators of Community Services
- New Orientation Required for Self-Directed Services
- New and Updated Forms for Self-Directed Services
- New Rules Starting October 6, 2025
- Resources

Waiver Changes and You

Overview

What is a Medicaid Waiver or Waiver Program? (1 of 2)

- A Medicaid **waiver** lets some Medicaid rules be set aside to help more people get the services they need at home or in the community – instead of in a facility or institution.
- A Medicaid **waiver** or **waiver program** allows services (or benefits) that Medicaid does not usually cover.

What is a Medicaid Waiver or Waiver Program? (2 of 2)

- A waiver is **not** an entitlement.
 - Services provided by a waiver are not an automatic benefit, even if you are eligible.
 - If eligible, you are not guaranteed to get services because there are a limited number of spots in the program.
 - If all spots are full, you will be placed on a waitlist until a spot becomes available.

Current DDA-Operated Medicaid Waivers

The Developmental Disabilities Administration administers the following 1915 (c) Medicaid waiver programs on behalf of the Department:

Family Supports Waiver

- Children birth to 21 years
- Various Support Services

Community Supports Waiver

- Children and adults
- Meaningful Day and Support Services

Community Pathways Waiver

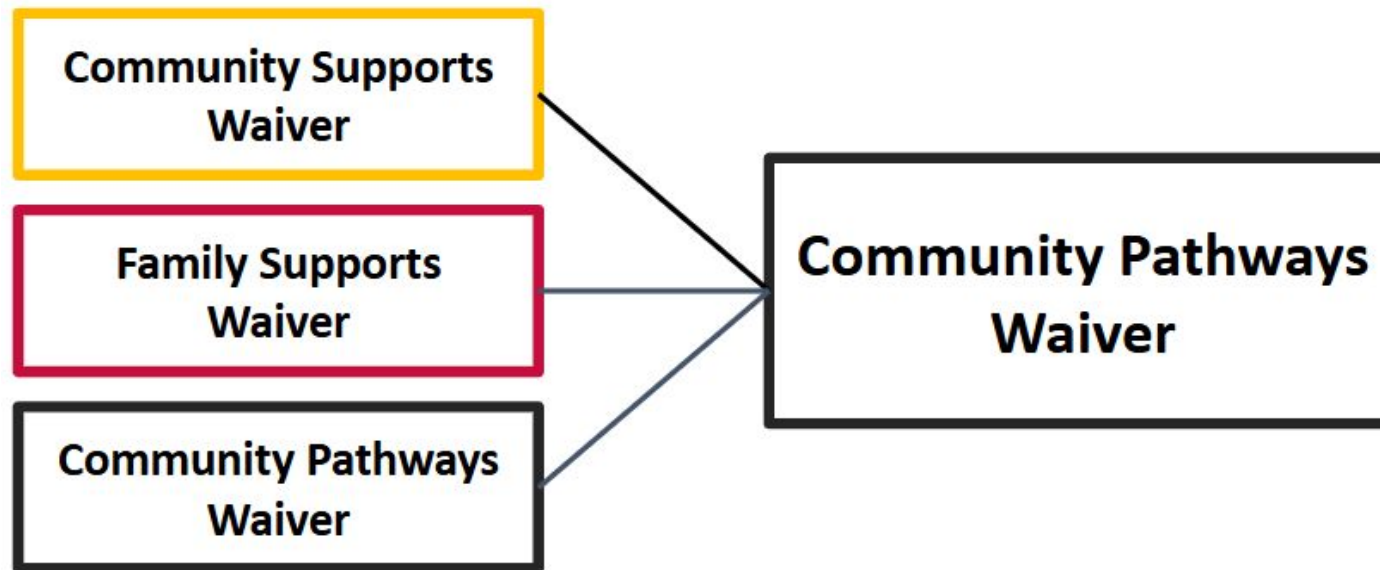
- Children and adults
- Meaningful Day, Support, and Residential Services

Waiver Changes and You

Waiver Program Changes: What you Need to Know

What is changing?

- Two programs – the Family Supports Waiver and the Community Supports Waiver – are being **combined** into the Community Pathways Waiver. This change starts on **October 6, 2025**.




Why are these changes happening?

- The DDA is combining the three waiver programs to:
 - Make services easier and quicker to access;
 - Provide more consistent, person-centered support; and
 - Improve the overall system for everyone.

Do you need to do anything?

- No.
- If you are in the Family Supports or Community Support programs:
 - You will be **automatically** moved into the Community Pathways Waiver.
 - You **do not** need to fill out any forms or take any action.

What does this mean for you?



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

[Participant Name]
[Address]

Date: August 29, 2025

Subject: Important Changes to Your Medicaid Waiver - Starting in October 2025

IMPORTANT: This letter has important updates about your Medicaid waiver services. If you need help to understand this letter or would like it in a different format (like large print or another language), please contact the Central Maryland Regional Office at 410-234-8200.

What is Changing?

The Maryland Department of Health is making changes to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Medicaid waiver programs. Starting in October 2025, the **Family Supports Waiver** and **Community Supports Waiver** will be combined into one program called the **Community Pathways Waiver**.

This change is part of an official update (called a waiver amendment). It will help make services easier to access, faster to receive, and more focused on each person's needs. These changes are planned to go into effect on October 6, 2025. Once the amendment is approved, you will move into the **Community Pathways Waiver** program.

What Does This Mean for You?

- You will **keep all the same services and supports** you have now.
- You will **automatically move into the Community Pathways Waiver** program.
- You **do not need to apply again or complete a new waiver application**.
- Your current Person-Centered Plan and approved services will now be provided under the Community Pathways Waiver program.
- Your service providers (including staff under the self-directed services model, if applicable) will continue to be paid - just under the Community Pathways Waiver program.

- You will still get the same services you do now.
- If you are in the Family Supports or Community Support programs:
 - You will get a letter from Medicaid confirming that you are now enrolled in the Community Pathways Waiver which you should keep.

Questions



Waiver Changes and You

Changes to the Services the DDA Provides

DDA Services

- The DDA pays for three (3) kinds of services.
- The DDA calls them:
 - Day and Employment Services;
 - Support Services; and
 - Residential Services.

Service Changes

- As part of the changes to the waiver, the DDA made changes to some of the services in the Community Pathways Waiver.
- These changes apply to you if you get services from a provider or if you self-direct your services.

Waiver Changes and You

Day and Employment Services

Day and Employment Services

Day and Employment Services are services that support you during the daytime. The DDA refers to these services as **Meaningful Day**.

- To get Day and Employment Services, you must be:
 - 18 years old or older, and
 - No longer in high school.

The following slides provide an overview of day and employment service changes.

Employment Services (1 of 3)

These services help you think about what kind of job you want, get a job, and keep a job in the community.

What Changed?

- You can get Employment Services while you look for a job.
- The job you do must meet **Competitive Integrated Employment** standards.
This means the job:
 - Must pay at least minimum wage,
 - Include opportunities to work with people without disabilities, and;
 - Offer the same benefits and chances for advancement as other workers.

Employment Services (2 of 3)

What Changed? (continued)

- **Discovery Services** can only be used once every two years. These services help you figure out what you are good at doing and what kind of job you would like to do.
- **Job Development Services** include up to 90 hours per year. The year is based on your Person-Centered Plan.

Employment Services (3 of 3)

What Changed? (continued)

- **Co-Worker Employment Supports** (extra help from a co-worker at your job) are only available during the first three months of your employment.

Career Exploration

This is a short term service to help you learn the new skills you will need to work.

What Changed?

- Career Exploration is now limited to 720 hours per year. The year is based on your Person-Centered Plan year.

Community Development Services

These services provide direct support so you can be more connected to your community. Staff will support you to develop or maintain social and other skills you need.

What Changed?

- **Dedicated Support**, also known as one-on-one staff support, can be approved temporarily, for up to 6 months.

Day Habilitation

This is a service you can get during the day when you are not working. You can get support to build skills and participate in social and community activities. Support is provided in small and large groups of people in provider programs or in the community.

What Changed?

- Dedicated support, also known as one-on-one staff support, can be approved temporarily, for up to 6 months.

Medical Day Care

This service helps you participate in a group program that provides health care, nursing, therapies, personal care, and other support.

What Changed?

- You can now get Behavioral Support Services ***while*** you get Medical Day Care services.

Questions



Waiver Changes and You

Support Services

Support Services

Support Services are services that support parts of your life. These may include:

- Access to Assistive Technology.
- Opportunities to learn about, assess the need for, and develop positive behavioral support strategies.
- Support your family or caregivers through training, mentoring or respite.
- Access personal supports to help you participate in your home and community life.
- Access nursing supports.

Assistive Technology (1 of 2)

This service supports you to stay safe and maintain or improve your independent skills. It includes an assessment of your technology needs and helps you choose, get, use, and maintain the technology.

What Changed?

- **Monthly service fees** for Assistive Technology are now included and covered in the waiver. For example, if your device has a monthly subscription or service fee, that can now be paid for through the waiver.

Assistive Technology (2 of 2)

What Changed? (continued)

- Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) are no longer covered by this waiver. Instead, they are now covered by the Maryland Community First Choice Program.

Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) are devices, also called medical alert systems, that include a base unit and a wearable button. They let a person quickly contact emergency services.

Behavioral Support Services (1 of 2)

These services support you if you are experiencing, or are likely to experience difficulty at home or in the community as a result of behavioral, psychological, social or emotional challenges.

What Changed?

- Virtual appointments are now allowed for assessments and consultations. This means you can meet with your provider online instead of in person, if that works better for you.

Behavioral Support Services (2 of 2)

What Changed? (continued)

- Brief Implementation Support Services must be done in person.
- You can have one Behavioral Assessment per year. The year is based on your Person-Centered Plan year.

Environmental Assessments

This service is an assessment with you at home to see if changes to your home or technology would help support your independence, health, or safety.

What Changed?

- The assessment must be done by a licensed Occupational Therapist who is in good standing with Maryland rules.

Environmental Modifications

This service includes small changes to your home like grab bars, ramps, railings, warnings on walking surfaces, alert devices, and adaptations to electrical, phone and lighting systems.

What Changed?

- Smart home devices that need to be attached to your home are now covered. Examples include:
 - Voice activated door openers
 - Blinds and shade openers

Family and Peer Mentoring Supports

This service connects you and your family to mentors with experiences like yours. They explain community services, programs and strategies they have used to achieve goals.

What Changed?

- Family mentors must have lived experience. That means they are a parent or family and have gone through similar things themselves.
- Peer mentors are people with disabilities who also have lived experience. They support others by sharing what they have learned.

Family Caregiver Training and Empowerment Services

These services cover educational materials, training programs, workshops and conferences that help your unpaid family caregiver.

What Changed?

- Organized Health Care Delivery System (OHCDS) Providers can now provide this service. An Organized Health Care Delivery System Provider is an organization approved by the state to help deliver and pay for certain services in the waiver.

Housing Support Services

Housing Support Services are a short-term service that helps you find and keep your own home.

What Changed?

- You can now get Housing Support Services virtually (online). You do not have to meet with someone in person.

Individual & Family Directed Goods and Services

These are services, activities, or supplies that you cannot get through the Community Pathways Waiver or through other Medicaid services.

What Changed?

- **Recruitment and Advertising:**
 - You can still get help with the cost of finding staff. You can get up to \$500 a year for recruitment and advertising.

Note: This is only available to people who use the Self-Directed Services model.

Individual & Family Directed Goods and Services

What Changed? (continued)

- **Other Goods and Services:**
 - Starting October 6, 2025, there is a new yearly limit of \$5,000.
 - If something was already approved before that date, you can keep using it.
 - But new requests after that date cannot go over the \$5,000 yearly limit.

Individual & Family Directed Goods and Services

What Changed? (continued)

- **Day-to-Day Administrative Supports:**
 - You can request up to 10 hours per month.
 - This must be approved in the Person-Centered Plan.
 - After October 6, 2025, you will have to use a decision tree checklist to help decide if this support is needed.

Individual & Family Directed Goods and Services

What Changed? (continued)

- **Some items are no longer allowed:**
 - Educational tuition like the cost of school or college classes.
 - Commercial-use items or things meant for business or making money.

Individual & Family Directed Goods and Services

What Changed? (continued)

- **Some items are no longer allowed:**
 - Diversional or recreational items and activities. These are things used just for fun like events, sports, games, or toys.
 - Goods, services, equipment, and supplies that a household that does not include a person with a disability would pay for as household expenses. Examples include monthly internet services and subscriptions for television services.

Live-In Caregiver Supports

A live-in caregiver is someone who provides support to you and lives with you in your home that you own or rent.

What Changed?

- This service is only available if the person (caregiver) lives in your home. It cannot be your family's home, the caregiver's home, or a home owned or rented by a provider.
- There must be a written agreement in place and followed between you and your live-in caregiver.

Nursing Support Services

This service supports a registered nurse licensed in Maryland to provide Nursing Consultation, Health Case Management, and Nursing Delegations services.

What Changed?

- These services can no longer be provided by a relative.
- Nurse Consultation and Nurse Health Case Management services are now limited to no more than 4 hours every 3 months.

Participant, Education, Training, and Advocacy Supports

This service covers the cost of a training program, workshop, or conference you need to attend to learn more about how to develop self-advocacy skills, exercise your civil rights and develop skills needed to control and be responsible for your services.

What Changed?

- Organized Health Care Delivery System (OHCDS) Providers can now provide this service.

Personal Supports

This service helps you with different kinds of support needs if you live in your own home or your family's home and would like to improve your independent living skills.

What Changed?

- Dedicated support, also known as one-on-one staff support, can be approved temporarily, for up to 6 months.

Remote Support Services

This service supports your independence in your home so that you don't have to rely on staff. Staff can be available to you as needed and can check on you through technology instead of in person.

What Changed?

- You have to be able to turn off the technology if you want.

Respite Care Services

This service is short-term support that gives you and your family, or other primary caregiver, a break from daily routines.

What Changed?

Service may only be provided in:

- Your own home;
- The home of a respite care provider;
- A licensed residential site; and
- An overnight camp or a youth day camp that is certified by the Maryland Department of Health.

Support Broker Services (1 of 2)

If you self-direct your services, you can choose this service. A Support Broker is a person who helps you with the employer side of self-directing your services. They provide information and advice for you to help you make informed decisions related to managing the staff who provide your services and help you stay within your budget.

What Changed?

New requirements for Support Broker:

- Must successfully finish training and meet all the requirements set by the DDA.
- Sign and follow a code of conduct.

Support Broker Services (2 of 2)

What Changed? (continued)

You must hire a Support Broker if any of the following apply to you:

- You have chosen a relative, legally responsible person (like a parent or spouse), or legal guardian to be your designated representative. That means they are helping you manage your services.
- You're receiving waiver services from a relative, legally responsible person, or legal guardian. That means they are getting paid to provide you support.
- You have hired someone (anyone) to provide you Day-to-Day Administrative Supports.

Transition Services

This service provides funding for certain expenses if you move from an institution to a group home or from a provider operated home to your own home in the community.

What Changed?

- Now you can use Transition Services for the cost of training staff before you move.

Transportation Services

This service helps you independently get to community activities. Your community is where you live, work, shop or spend your days. The service is provided based on the assessed need for this service in your Person-Centered Plan.

What Changed?

- Nothing.

Vehicle Modifications

This service covers the cost to you to modify (change) your vehicle so that it is more accessible.

What Changed?

- Clarifies that this service does not include the cost of charging electric vehicles.

Questions



Waiver Changes and You

Residential Services

Residential Services (1 of 2)

Residential Services support you to live as independently as possible in the community. There are different kinds of Residential Services. You and your team decide what works best for you.

- To get residential services, you must be 18 years old or older.

Residential Services (2 of 2)

Residential supports can help you find:

- A place to live.
- Roommates.
- Support staff to help you learn and use skills you need to take care of yourself and your home and be a part of your community.

Supported Living

This service supports you to use or develop new independent living skills in your own home. It includes help finding an apartment or house, roommates, and supports based on what you want and need.

What Changed?

- Dedicated support, also known as one-on-one staff support, can be approved temporarily, for up to 6 months.

Shared Living

This service helps you to build and keep skills needed for everyday life, including spending time with others. The service supports you to share a home and life experiences with another person, a couple or a family in the community that you choose. The service is based on trust and commitment you and the person, couple or family have with each other.

What Changed?

- Nothing

Community Living - Group Home

This service supports you to build and keep skills you need for everyday life, including spending time with others. This service supports you in a home rented or owned by a provider.

What Changed?

- Dedicated support, also known as one-on-one staff support, can be approved temporarily, for up to 6 months.

Community Living - Enhanced Supports

This service supports you to develop and keep skills needed for: everyday life, spending time with others and keeping you and others safe. It does this by providing additional behavioral supports, observation and supervision in a home rented or owned by a provider.

What Changed?

- Dedicated support, also known as one-on-one staff support, can be approved temporarily, for up to 6 months.

Questions



Waiver Changes and You

New Visit Requirements for Coordinators of Community Services

Coordinators of Community Services (1 of 4)

- Main point of contact for making sure your services are working well for you.
- They help update your Person-Centered Plan.
- Must meet with you at least once every three months (quarterly) to check in on your services.
- Should visit you **in person** at the place where you're receiving services. If you get services at different places, they should visit you at a different place for each visit.

Coordinators of Community Services (2 of 4)

What Changed?

- When your Coordinator of Community Services visits, they will now ask some questions during their visit to make sure you are getting the support you need and want. These include:
 - Do you feel like your privacy is being respected?
 - Are your health and safety needs being met?

Coordinators of Community Services (3 of 4)

What Changed? (continued)

- If you receive virtual (online) supports:
 - Do you get hands-on help when you need it?
 - Do you get help using technology, if needed?
 - Are you happy with the virtual (online) supports, or would you rather have in person supports?

Coordinators of Community Services (4 of 4)

What Changed? (continued)

- If a relative, legally responsible person, or legal guardian provides any services to you:
 - Do you want to find more people to support you? If so, what can we do to find more people?
 - Is it still your choice to receive services from this person?
 - Do you want to find other people to help you make decisions?
-

Questions



Waiver Changes and You

New Orientation Required for Self-Directed Services

New Self-Directed Services Orientation (1 of 4)

Starting **October 6, 2025**, any participant who wants to use the Self-Directed Services model must first complete a new orientation process.

Who needs to complete the orientation?

You must complete the orientation if:

- You are new to DDA waiver services and want to self-direct your services OR
- If you are using the Provider Managed model and want to switch to Self-Directed Services.

New Self-Directed Services Orientation (2 of 4)

What is the Orientation Process?

- The Orientation will be led by your Coordinator of Community Services.
- You will go through three training modules from the DDA's Self-Directed Services Training Series:
 - Module 1: Self-Direction Overview (What self-direction is and how it works).
 - Module 2: The Self-Directed Services Team (Who is involved and how they support you) .
 - Module 3: Person-Centered Planning (How to create a plan that reflects your goals and choices).

New Self-Directed Services Orientation (3 of 4)

You will also complete an Orientation Checklist to help show you understand what you have learned and review a Frequently Asked Questions tool to help answer any questions.

New Self-Directed Services Orientation (4 of 4)

When does the Orientation need to be done?

- If you start self-directing your services before December 31, 2025, you must complete the orientation by March 2026.
- If you start self-directing your services in 2026 (January 1, 2026 or later), you must complete orientation before you start services.

Questions



Waiver Changes and You

New and Updated Forms for Self-Directed Services

Updated Forms for Self-Directed Services

Form for use on or after October 6, 2025

- Participant Agreement
- Self-Directed Services Budget Sheet
- Budget Modification Form
- Family as Staff Form

Participant Agreement

What Changed?

- Required for all people who self-direct their services.
- If you are under 18, you must name a Designated Representative to help manage your services. (Option 2 on the form)
 - You'll need to use the new form during your next plan year or immediately if something changes in your situation.

Self-Directed Services Budget Sheet

What Changed?

- This form was updated to be easier to understand and use.
- Use the new form next time you need to create or change your budget.

Budget Modification Form

What Changed?

- This form was also updated to be clearer.
- It now shows that the Individual and Family Directed Goods and Services are limited to \$5,000 per year.
- You have to use the updated form next time you make a budget change.

Family as Staff Form

What Changed?

- This form must be used when relatives, legally responsible persons, and legal guardians provide waiver services to you.
- You must use the updated form during your next plan year, or if something has changed.

New Forms for Self-Directed Services

Form for use on or after October 6, 2025

- Day-to-Day Administrative Supports Decision Tree
 - This new form helps you and your team decide what kinds of help you may need from Day-to-Day Administrative Supports. The new form is required during the next plan year if you are requesting Day-to-Day Administrative Supports.
- Self-Directed Services Orientation Checklist

Coming Soon!

DDA is also working on updates to the following to align with the amendment including:

- Reporting and Substitute Judgement Forms
- Rights and Responsibilities Form
- Guide to Services
- Guidelines for Service Authorization and Provider Billing Documentation
- Person-Centered Planning Manual
- PolicyStat

Questions



Waiver Changes and You

New Rules Starting October 6, 2025

New Rules Starting October 6, 2025 (1 of 2)

- Relatives, legally responsible persons, and legal guardians cannot work and get paid to provide more than 40-hours of support per week.
 - If currently approved to work more than 40-hours, they may continue until the end of the Family as Staff Overtime Request Form approval.
- The new definition for relatives includes: natural or adoptive parents, step-parents, grandparents, step-grandparents, children, stepchildren, siblings, step-siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

New Rules Starting October 6, 2025 (2 of 2)

- Substitute Judgment: Legally responsible persons, legal guardians, and certain relatives must use substitute judgment. Substitute judgement means someone makes decisions based on what you would want, not what they want for you.

Questions



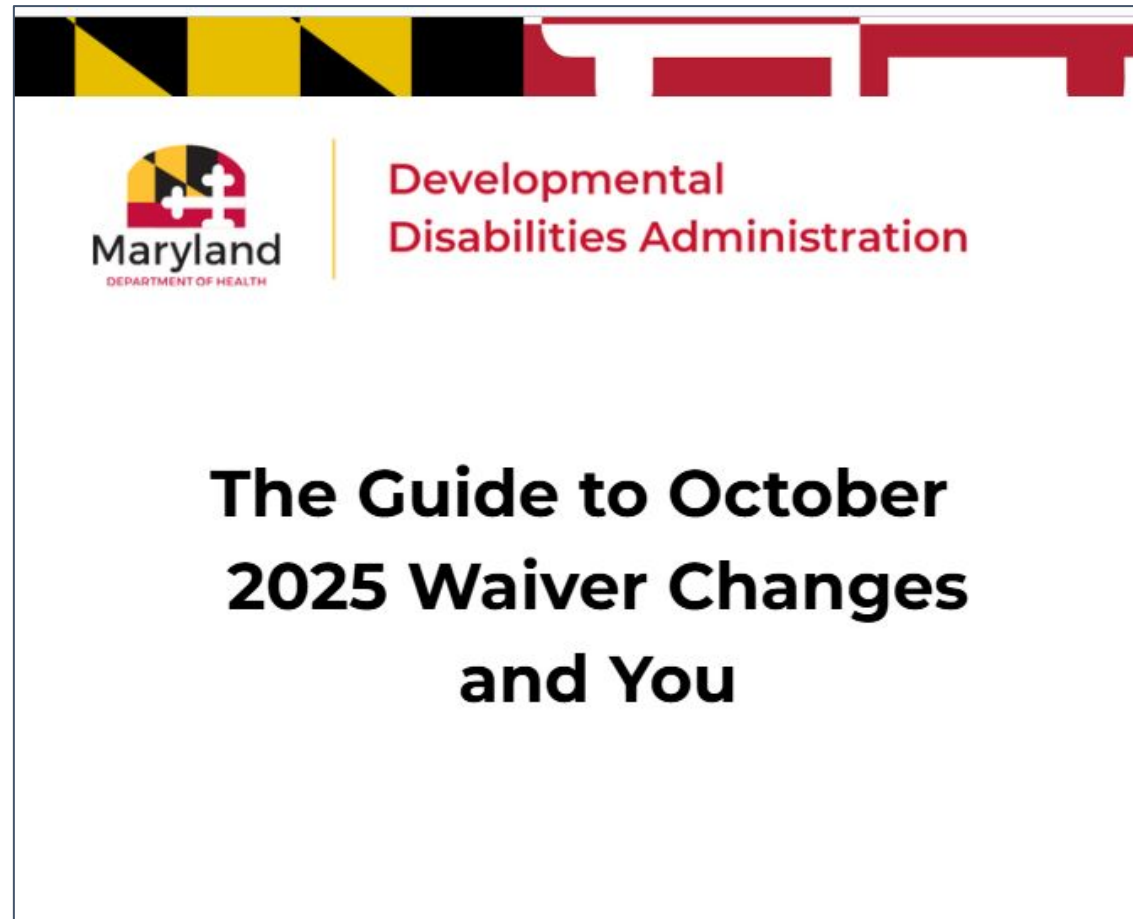
Waiver Changes and You

Resources

Information

- The information shared today is a plain language summary with important information.
- For more details, visit DDA's [website](#) to see DDA's waiver application, laws, regulations, guidance, and policies.

New Resources - Coming Soon (1 of 3)



New Resources - Coming Soon (2 of 3)

Assistive Technology and Environmental Modifications Chart

The chart below includes examples of items for the home. It can help participants and their teams identify technology solutions that will best support full use of the home.

Item	Assistive Technology	Environmental Modification	Reasoning
Smart Assistance	●		These items do not require installation in the home structure, but may require the use of tape to stabilize in the desired place in the home.
Amazon Echo	●		
Alexa	●		
Google Nest Hub	●		
Apple HomePod	●		
Smart Lighting	●		
Smart light bulbs			
Smart dimmers and switches		●	Requires wiring to the home
Smart Blinds		●	
Switch Boxes	●		This is a device that turns regular blinds into smart blinds that pair with

Chart that includes examples of items for the home. It can help participants and their teams identify technology solutions that will best support full use of the home.

New Resources - Coming Soon (3 of 3)

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Easy-to-Understand Guide to October 2025 Waiver Changes and You

What is this guide about?

This guide has important information about changes made to the Developmental Disabilities Administration Medicaid waiver programs. The Developmental Disabilities Administration is also called the DDA.

This Easy-to-Understand Guide to October 2025 Waiver Changes and You was written to be understandable to everyone. It has important information you should know.

The DDA also has a guide with more details. That guide is called The Guide to October 2025 Waiver Changes and You. Click [here](#) if you want to read it

What information is in this guide?

This guide will help you understand:

Waiver Program Changes: What you Need to Know	2
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Important words are in **bold**.

Easy-to-Understand Guide to October 2025 Waiver Changes and You

Webinar Series - Save the Dates

Date	Topic	Time
September 19, 2025	Self-Directed Services Updates	9 - 11:30 am
September 19, 2025	Provider Opportunities and Requirements	2 - 3:30 pm
October 1, 2025	New and Updated Forms	12 - 1:30 pm
October 2, 2025	LTSS <i>Maryland</i> Updates	12 - 1:30 pm

Click [here](#) to register once to be automatically enrolled for all webinars.

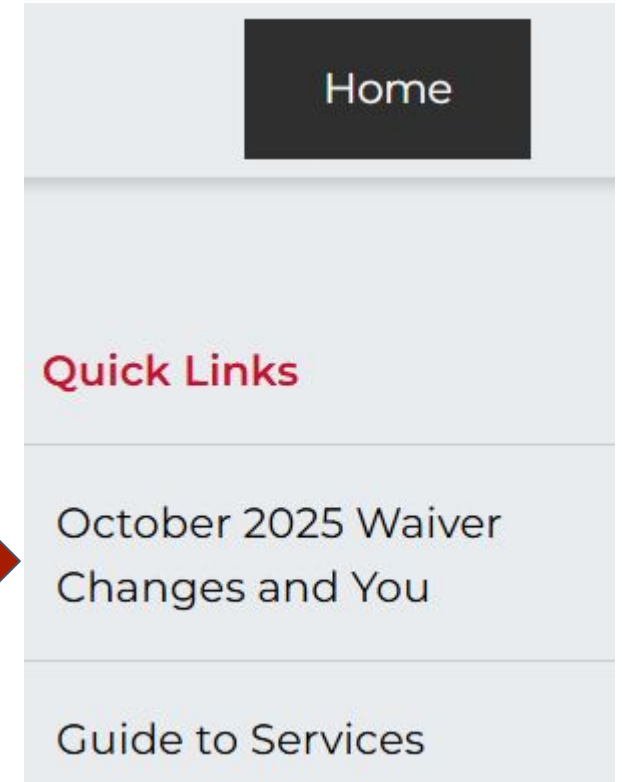
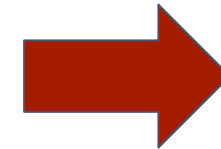
Who do I contact with questions?

You can reach out to:

- Your **Coordinator of Community Services**, or
- Your **DDA [Regional Office](#)**

More Information

- For updates and more details, visit the new “[October 2025 Waiver Changes and You](#)” webpage.
- You can also sign up for email updates from the DDA at this [link](#).



Waiver Changes and You

Public Comment

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

Questions

