

APPENDIX K: Emergency Preparedness and Response and COVID-19 Addendum

Background:

This standalone appendix may be utilized by the state during emergency situations to request amendments to its approved waiver, to multiple approved waivers in the state, and/or to all approved waivers in the state. It includes actions that states can take under the existing Section 1915(c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency. Other activities may require the use of various other authorities such as the Section 1115 demonstrations or the Section 1135 authorities.¹ This appendix may be applied retroactively as needed by the state. Public notice requirements normally applicable under 1915(c) do not apply to information contained in this Appendix.

Appendix K-1: General Information

General Information:

A. State: **California**

B. Waiver Title(s):

- 1. Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver
- 2. Assisted Living Waiver (ALW)

C. Control Number(s):

- 1. CA.0139.R05.10
- 2. CA.0431.R03.06

D. Type of Emergency (The state may check more than one box):

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Pandemic or Epidemic
<input type="radio"/>	Natural Disaster
<input type="radio"/>	National Security Emergency
<input type="radio"/>	Environmental
<input type="radio"/>	Other (specify):

E. **Brief Description of Emergency.** *In no more than one paragraph each,* briefly describe the: 1) nature of emergency; 2) number of individuals affected and the state’s mechanism to identify individuals at risk; 3) roles of state, local and other entities involved in approved waiver operations; and 4) expected changes needed to service delivery methods, if applicable. The state should provide this information for each emergency checked if those emergencies affect different geographic areas and require different changes to the waiver.

COVID-19 pandemic. This amendment will be available waiver-wide but only applied to individuals impacted by the virus within regional “hot spots” identified by the Director of the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

This Appendix K is additive to the Appendix K approved June 8, 2020, and temporarily pauses Waiver enrollment policy in Appendix B-3: f. *Selection of Entrants to the Waiver*, to allow waiver applicants within regions of the state that are identified by the DHCS Director as COVID-19 “hot spots” to be prioritized for intake processing, without having been in an institutional setting for 60 days, and before all other sub-populations.

F. Proposed Effective Date: Start Date: September 1, 2020
Anticipated End Date: February 28, 2021

G. Description of Transition Plan.

All activities will take place in response to the impact of COVID-19 as efficiently and effectively as possible based upon the complexity of the change.

H. Geographic Areas Affected:

These actions will apply to all HCBA Waiver and ALW applicants within regional “hotspots” identified by the Administration.

I. Description of State Disaster Plan (if available) *Reference to external documents is acceptable:*

[State of California Emergency Plan](#) October 2017

Appendix K-2: Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver

Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver:

These are changes that, while directly related to the state’s response to an emergency situation, require amendment to the approved waiver document. These changes are time limited and tied specifically to individuals impacted by the emergency. Permanent or long-ranging changes will need to be incorporated into the main appendices of the waiver, via an amendment request in the waiver management system (WMS) upon advice from CMS.

a. X Access and Eligibility:

i. ___ Temporarily increase the cost limits for entry into the waiver.

[Provide explanation of changes and specify the temporary cost limit.]

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ii. X **Temporarily modify additional targeting criteria.**

[Explanation of changes]

When areas of the state experience surges in new cases of COVID-19 positive tests, and are identified as “hot spots” by the DHCS Director, the impact to the health care infrastructure, if left unmitigated, poses a significant risk to the population in need of care if there are no beds available to treat new patients. In order to decompress institutional settings during regional surges of the virus, the state is temporarily amending Waiver enrollment policy to prioritize transitions of beneficiaries in inpatient facility stays, regardless of length of stay. This temporary flexibility will only be implemented in areas of the state that are identified as “hot spots” by the DHCS Director.

HCBA Waiver, CA.0139.R05.10, Appendix B-3: f.

Selection of Entrants to the Waiver. Specify the policies that apply to the selection of individuals for entrance to the waiver:

...

Under non-emergency conditions, HCBA Waiver eligible individuals on the waitlist will be assigned available Waiver slots in the following order:

- i. Individuals transitioning to the Waiver from similar HCBS programs.
- ii. Individuals under 21 years of age.
- iii. Individuals who have been residing in a health care facility for at least 60 days at the time the HCBA Waiver application is submitted to a Waiver Agency or DHCS in areas where there is no Waiver Agency .
- iv. Individuals residing in the community at the time of submission of the HCBA Waiver application.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), waiver applicants in an inpatient facility stay within regions of the state that are identified by the DHCS Director as COVID-19 “hot spots” will be prioritized for intake processing, without having been in an institution for 60 days, and before all other sub-populations.

ALW, CA.0431.R03.06, Appendix B-3: f.

Selection of Entrants to the Waiver. Specify the policies that apply to the selection of individuals for entrance to the waiver:

...

Under non-emergency conditions, enrollment may be prioritized based upon the imminent need for services that is determined through the assessment process. New enrollments into the ALW are required to be processed at a ratio of 60% institutional transition to 40% community enrollments. Participant must reside in an institution for at least 60 days prior to qualifying as an institutional transition onto the Waiver. An individual requesting ALW services must work with a Care Coordination Agency to complete and submit an ALW application to DHCS.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), waiver applicants in an inpatient facility stay within regions of the state that are identified by the DHCS Director as COVID-19 “hot spots” will be prioritized for intake processing, without having been in an institution for 60 days, and before all other sub-populations.

b. ___ Services

i. ___ Temporarily modify service scope or coverage.

[Complete Section A- Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency.]

ii. ___ Temporarily exceed service limitations (including limits on sets of services as described in Appendix C-4) or requirements for amount, duration, and prior authorization to address health and welfare issues presented by the emergency.

[Explanation of changes]

iii. ___ Temporarily add services to the waiver to address the emergency situation (for example, emergency counseling; heightened case management to address emergency needs; emergency medical supplies and equipment; individually directed goods and services; ancillary services to establish temporary residences for dislocated waiver enrollees; necessary technology; emergency evacuation transportation outside of the scope of non-emergency transportation or transportation already provided through the waiver).

[Complete Section A-Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency]

iv. ___ Temporarily expand setting(s) where services may be provided (e.g. hotels, shelters, schools, churches). Note for respite services only, the state should indicate any facility-based settings and indicate whether room and board is included:

[Explanation of modification, and advisement if room and board is included in the respite rate]:

v. ___ Temporarily provide services in out of state settings (if not already permitted in the state's approved waiver). [Explanation of changes]

c. ___ Temporarily permit payment for services rendered by family caregivers or legally responsible individuals if not already permitted under the waiver. Indicate the services to which this will apply and the safeguards to ensure that individuals receive necessary services as authorized in the plan of care, and the procedures that are used to ensure that payments are made for services rendered.

d. ___ Temporarily modify provider qualifications (for example, expand provider pool, temporarily modify or suspend licensure and certification requirements).

i. ___ Temporarily modify provider qualifications.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, list the provider type, and the changes in provider qualifications.]

ii. ___ Temporarily modify provider types.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, and the changes in the provider type for each service].

iii. ___ Temporarily modify licensure or other requirements for settings where waiver services are furnished.

[Provide explanation of changes, description of facilities to be utilized and list each service provided in each facility utilized.]

e. ___ Temporarily modify processes for level of care evaluations or re-evaluations (within regulatory requirements). [Describe]

f. ___ Temporarily increase payment rates.

[Provide an explanation for the increase. List the provider types, rates by service, and specify whether this change is based on a rate development method that is different from the current approved waiver (and if different, specify and explain the rate development method). If the rate varies by provider, list the rate by service and by provider.]

g. ___ Temporarily modify person-centered service plan development process and individual(s) responsible for person-centered service plan development, including qualifications.

[Describe any modifications including qualifications of individuals responsible for service plan development, and address Participant Safeguards. Also include strategies to ensure that services are received as authorized.]

h. ___ Temporarily modify incident reporting requirements, medication management or other participant safeguards to ensure individual health and welfare, and to account for emergency

circumstances. [Explanation of changes]

i. ___ Temporarily allow for payment for services for the purpose of supporting waiver participants in an acute care hospital or short-term institutional stay when necessary supports (including communication and intensive personal care) are not available in that setting, or when the individual requires those services for communication and behavioral stabilization, and such services are not covered in such settings.

[Specify the services.]

j. ___ Temporarily include retainer payments to address emergency related issues.

[Describe the circumstances under which such payments are authorized and applicable limits on their duration. Retainer payments are available for habilitation and personal care only.]

k. ___ Temporarily institute or expand opportunities for self-direction.

[Provide an overview and any expansion of self-direction opportunities including a list of services that may be self-directed and an overview of participant safeguards.]

l. ___ Increase Factor C.

[Explain the reason for the increase and list the current approved Factor C as well as the proposed revised Factor C]

m. ___ Other Changes Necessary [For example, any changes to billing processes, use of contracted entities or any other changes needed by the State to address imminent needs of individuals in the waiver program]. [Explanation of changes]

1. HCBS Regulations

- a. Not comply with the HCBS settings requirement at 42 CFR 441.301(c)(4)(vi)(D) that individuals are able to have visitors of their choosing at any time, for settings added after March 17, 2014, to minimize the spread of infection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Services

- a. Add an electronic method of service delivery (e.g., telephonic) allowing services to continue to be provided remotely in the home setting for:
- i. Case management
 - ii. Personal care services that only require verbal cueing
 - iii. In-home habilitation
 - iv. Monthly monitoring (i.e., in order to meet the reasonable indication of need for services requirement in 1915(c) waivers).
 - v. Other *[Describe]*:

- b. Add home-delivered meals
- c. Add medical supplies, equipment and appliances (over and above that which is in the state plan)
- d. Add Technology

3. Conflict of Interest: The state is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic personnel crisis by authorizing case management entities to provide direct services. Therefore, the case management entity qualifies under 42 CFR 441.301(c)(1)(vi) as the only willing and qualified entity.

- a. Current safeguards authorized in the approved waiver will apply to these entities.
- b. Additional safeguards listed below will apply to these entities.

4. Provider Qualifications

- a. Allow spouses and parents of minor children to provide personal care services
- b. Allow a family member to be paid to render services to an individual.
- c. Allow other practitioners in lieu of approved providers within the waiver. *[Indicate the providers and their qualifications]*

- d. Modify service providers for home-delivered meals to allow for additional providers, including non-traditional providers.

5. Processes

- a. Allow an extension for reassessments and reevaluations for up to one year past the due date.
- b. Allow the option to conduct evaluations, assessments, and person-centered service planning meetings virtually/remotely in lieu of face-to-face meetings.
- c. Adjust prior approval/authorization elements approved in waiver.
- d. Adjust assessment requirements
- e. Add an electronic method of signing off on required documents such as the person-centered service plan.

Contact Person(s)

A. The Medicaid agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the request:

First Name: Joseph
Last Name Billingsley
Title: Program Policy and Operations Branch Chief
Agency: Department of Healthcare Services
Address 1: 1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4502
Address 2: P.O. Box 997437
City Sacramento
State CA
Zip Code 95899-7437
Telephone: (916) 713-8389
E-mail Joseph.billingsley@dhcs.ca.gov
Fax Number n/a

B. If applicable, the State operating agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

First Name:
Last Name
Title:
Agency:
Address 1:
Address 2:
City
State
Zip Code
Telephone:
E-mail
Fax Number

8. Authorizing Signature

Signature:

Date: 8/28/2020

_____/S/_____
State Medicaid Director or Designee

First Name: Jacey
Last Name: Cooper
Title: State Medicaid Director
Agency: California Department of Health Care Services
Address 1: 1501 Capitol Avenue
Address 2: P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000
City: Sacramento
State: CA
Zip Code: 95899-7413
Telephone: (916) 449-7400
E-mail: Jacey.cooper@dhcs.ca.gov
Fax Number: (916) 449-7404

Section A---Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency

Complete for each service added during a time of emergency. For services in the approved waiver that the state is temporarily modifying, enter the entire service definition and highlight the change. State laws, regulations and policies referenced in the specification should be readily available to CMS upon request through the Medicaid agency or the operating agency (if applicable).

Service Specification					
Service Title:					
<i>Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:</i>					
Service Definition (Scope):					
Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:					
Provider Specifications					
Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>		Individual. List types:		Agency. List the types of agencies:	
Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
Provider Qualifications <i>(provide the following information for each type of provider):</i>					
Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>		
Verification of Provider Qualifications					
Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:		Frequency of Verification		
Service Delivery Method					
Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed	



ⁱ Numerous changes that the state may want to make may necessitate authority outside of the scope of section 1915(c) authority. States interested in changes to administrative claiming or changes that require section 1115 or section 1135 authority should engage CMS in a discussion as soon as possible. Some examples may include: (a) changes to administrative activities, such as the establishment of a hotline; or (b) suspension of general Medicaid rules that are not addressed under section 1915(c) such as payment rules or eligibility rules or suspension of provisions of section 1902(a) to which 1915(c) is typically bound.