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Community Care Waiver (CCW) Renewal – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the Community Care Waiver (CCW)?

The CCW, known federally as a 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Waiver, is a person-driven, long-term support system that offers choice and access to specialized services that aid individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in living in the least restrictive settings.

2. How does someone become eligible for the CCW?

In order to be eligible for the CCW, an individual must meet all functional criteria, have Medicaid coverage, and meet the CCW level of care (LOC).

3. How does one access the CCW? Can new individuals get onto the CCW?

There are two avenues by which an individual may access the CCW: (1) be reached chronologically on the Waiting List for the CCW or (2) be declared to be an emergency by the Division. In either case, the individual must also meet all functional criteria, have Medicaid coverage, and meet the CCW LOC.

4. Why is the CCW being renewed? What is the process?

The CCW is due to expire on September 30, 2013 and must be renewed in order for the Division to continue offering services and supports through the CCW after this date. The renewal was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in July of 2013 and will go into effect, if approved by CMS, on October 1, 2013. The submitted renewal began the process of aligning the CCW with the Supports Program (a new Division program included as part of the Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver) and making revisions based on stakeholder feedback. Many of these changes will have a phased-in implementation schedule.

The process of aligning the CCW with the Supports Program and incorporating changes based on stakeholder feedback will also continue with an amendment that will be submitted after October 1, 2013. There will be multiple opportunities for stakeholder input into the amendment.

5. Is the amendment process the same as the renewal process? When will the amendment go to CMS and when will it take effect?

The amendment process is generally the same as the renewal process. The Division cannot submit the amendment until the renewal is approved. The amendment will be submitted after ample time for stakeholder input. If, within 90 days after submission of the amendment, there are no issues/concerns from CMS, the changes contained in the amendment will go into effect.

6. How was the CCW changed in the renewal?

A summary of the changes in the CCW renewal is included in the Division's July 11, 2013 webinar, which can be accessed on the website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/ccw>.

- 7. Do individuals on the CCW have to reside in out-of-home licensed settings (i.e. group homes, supported apartments, etc.)?**
No. Many individuals who are on the CCW do reside in a licensed setting; however, some individuals and their families have elected to direct their services through the CCW while residing in their own or family home.
- 8. I've heard the term "ICF/ID" used in relation to the CCW. What does it stand for?**
ICF/ID stands for Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.
- 9. Does the CCW renewal date affect an individual's services or process related to accessing these services in any way?**
There will not be any immediate impact to individual services, service plan dates, or the method for accessing services. However, as some of the reforms included in the CCW renewal are phased-in, there may be some impact on both services and processes.
- 10. Has nursing been included as a new service in the CCW renewal?**
Nursing has not been added to the CCW as part of the current renewal. The Division recognizes the need for some individuals with developmental disabilities to access nursing services and is continuing to evaluate the options for how those services can most appropriately be provided.
- 11. Does the CCW renewal continue to delineate between "self-directed" and "traditional" avenues for accessing services? Will individuals who receive services under the renewed CCW be able to self-direct their services and supports?**
The renewal application for every 1915(c) waiver requires the State to explain how they will offer participant directed services. This information is included in Appendix E of the application. The Division included mechanisms for participant directed services within the renewal and continues to move toward a system which enhances consumer choice and self-direction.
- 12. What changes were made regarding the requirements for case manager contacts?**
The CCW renewal mandates that a process must be in place for monthly case management contact with all individuals on the CCW by October 2014. Monthly contacts can be conducted via phone calls, but face-to-face contacts must be done quarterly.
- 13. Under the renewal, will CCW participants move to the support coordination system or will they continue to have a DDD case manager? How are case management and support coordination defined in the renewal?**
The CCW renewal defines case management and support coordination differently. The *CCW Service Definitions and Qualifications* document provides greater detail about all services and provider qualifications, including case management and support coordination. This document is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/ccw>. As part of the larger reform efforts, the Division is anticipating eventually moving all individuals on the CCW to support coordination. This will require additional changes to the CCW. This issue will be discussed in greater detail when the amendment is drafted.
- 14. What services have been included in the CCW renewal?**
All of the services in the CCW renewal are outlined in the *CCW Service Definitions and Qualifications* document, available at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/ccw>.
- 15. Will an individual enrolled on the renewed CCW be able to choose "Day Habilitation" as part of their Service Plan? If so, what does "Day Habilitation" include?**
Yes, day habilitation is a covered service under the CCW renewal. The *CCW Service Definitions and Qualifications* document, available at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/ccw> provides a definition for day habilitation.

16. What are the anticipated limits being placed on Behavior Supports, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy in the CCW renewal?

Information about applicable limitations is included in the *CCW Service Definitions and Qualifications* document, available at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/ccw>.

17. The current CCW references several different Service Plans. Will there be a single, uniform Service Plan with the renewal?

The Division is moving toward implementation of a standard service plan – the New Jersey Individualized Service Plan (ISP) - for everyone. This plan can be accessed on the Division’s website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/programs/supportsprgm.html>. As with several of the other reforms included in the renewal, uniform implementation of the ISP will be phased-in over time. The renewal allows for the continued use of both the Individual Habilitation Plan (IHP) and the Essential Lifestyle Plan (ELP) as needed during the phase-in of the new plan.

18. When will 2-year licensing go into effect for residential programs?

The 2-year licensing standard will go into effect upon renewal of the CCW on October 1, 2013. The Division will outline a phase-in process with the amendment. More details will be available at that time.

19. Is Real Life Choices (RLC) a part of the CCW? How is the CCW different from a Self-Directed Program?

The Division has historically had various initiatives - including RLC - that allowed individuals to self-direct their services. The Division is working to collapse these silo programs and move to a system where all individuals who receive Division-funded services are enrolled on one of two Medicaid waiver programs (the Supports Program or the CCW), and are subject to a consistent set of policies and procedures. As current reforms are implemented, individuals on both the Supports Program and the CCW will have an enhanced ability to self-direct their services and supports.

20. Is the Waiting List for the Supports Program or the CCW?

There is currently a Waiting List for the CCW. The Division does not anticipate a waiting list for the Supports Program, once full enrollment is completed.

21. Will all Division-eligible individuals be reassessed using the New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJ CAT), or will their previous assessments stand?

An individual may be reassessed at any time if an issue arises regarding level of care and/or the ongoing need for services.

22. Does the Division anticipate any current recipients of the CCW who may not meet the requirement for “demonstrate deficiencies in self-care”, and if so, will they be grandfathered in to remain on the CCW?

If an individual who is already on the CCW is later determined to not meet the required level of care for the CCW, s/he would have to be disenrolled from the CCW. Federal law does not allow any exceptions to this. An individual who is disenrolled from the CCW may, however, still meet the required level of care for the Supports Program.

23. How often will an individual’s functional criteria be updated?

The CCW requires that an individual’s needs be reviewed at least annually to ensure that they meet the level of care and continue to be in need of CCW services.

24. Will the NJ CAT replace the Developmental Disabilities Resource Tool (DDRT)?

The NJ CAT is a single assessment tool which includes both the Functional Criteria Assessment and the DDRT. The DDRT will remain as a part of the NJ CAT but will be gradually phased out over time as a stand-alone assessment.

25. If an individual is currently on the CCW, do they have to switch to the Supports Program? Can they enroll on both?

Individuals enrolled on the CCW receive the services and supports they need via the CCW and thus, do not require enrollment on the Supports Program. In an individual's needs can be better met on the Supports Program, s/he may voluntarily disenroll from the CCW and enroll on the Supports Program. Individuals cannot be enrolled on both programs at the same time. Individuals on either program must continue to retain Medicaid eligibility and meet the applicable level of care.

26. Will an agency be permitted to provide services to individuals enrolled on the Supports Program and individuals enrolled on the CCW in the same programs?

Yes.

27. How do I find out more about the CCW and/or the various reforms the Division is undertaking?

The Division's website is being updated regularly with new information and the Division has developed a series of fact sheets and FAQs related to the various reforms.

To learn more about the CCW, see: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/ccw/>.

To learn more about the Supports Program, see <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/programs/supportsprgm.html>.

To learn more about the rate setting process and the conversion to a fee-for-service system, see <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/providers/ratestudy.html>.

To learn more about Medicaid eligibility and Division-funded services, see <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/medicaideligibility.html>.