



## New Jersey Department of Human Services

**July 1, 2016**

**On Behalf of acting Commissioner Elizabeth Connolly**

Dear Stakeholder:

Today the Department released for public comment an Addendum to the Statewide Transition Plan (STP) that was submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in April 2015.

The [addendum](#) is a **DRAFT** response to an October 2015 [letter](#) from CMS requesting supplemental information and clarifications to the proposed plan. With input from affected residents, providers and partner state agencies, the Department has made revisions for which it will be accepting **public comment from July 1 – August 31, 2016**.

I've already spoken with some of you about our proposals and I'm encouraged from the feedback. I think that together we've struck a balance of interests that has resulted in a workable, reasonable blueprint for transition, with policies that comply with the HCBS rules and a level of flexibility and openness to reviewing innovative operations under certain circumstances.

The Department will host three STP Addendum Listening Sessions for individuals interested in sharing their constructive input in person. Those dates and locations are listed below. There also is a Webinar posted [online](#).

Many of the topics covered in the Addendum address issues that were raised during the STP public comment period and that have remained areas of interest to the DD community, in particular.

Specifically, it:

- Formalizes a state process for **Density Review** of residential settings that don't meet the HCBS criteria but can show how individuals living there will be meaningfully integrated in their communities. Provider will have to meet a high bar to prove that true and meaningful integration is occurring. Developers/Providers will not be able to apply for state density review until the setting is operational and occupied. The state will not provide funding until the density review process is completed and approved.
- Adds a **Heightened Scrutiny Review** for residential settings presumed to have institution-like qualities. Developers/Providers cannot apply for CMS' Heightened Scrutiny review until the setting is operational and occupied. The state then can submit to CMS evidence demonstrating that the setting does have the qualities of a HCBS. Until the review is completed and approved by CMS, the state will not provide funding to support the residents.

- Changes **day-program settings** requirement to allow for a more individualized approach to integration. Community experiences and ideas for community opportunities will be included in each individual's PCPT. Providers also will: identify community opportunities and areas of interest along with potential barriers, solutions, and support needs related to community integration strategies; track individual progress to achieving community integration goals, and; conduct community outreach and maintain lists of connections, events, and ongoing opportunities to be posted and reviewed with individuals regularly when developing activity schedules.

As always, we welcome your feedback. The public comment period for the STP Addendum is from **July 1 – August 31, 2016**. Submissions can be sent by email to [mahs.hcbs@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:mahs.hcbs@dhs.state.nj.us) or by USPS to:

Statewide Transition Plan  
 NJ Department of Human Service  
 P.O. Box 700  
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0700

**DHS Listening Sessions:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
August 3	1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Seton Hall University Google Map Address: 1109 Raymond Blvd. Room 273 Newark, NJ 07102  Parking at One Newark Center - adjacent to Seton Hall Law. Proceed past the Law School on Raymond Boulevard and turn right onto Mulberry St. Then turn right onto the Laz Parking Garage. After parking, use the exit on Level C to get to the Law School More address
August 10	6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	DDD Central Office 195 Gateway Center 5 Commerce Way, Suite 100 Hamilton, NJ 08691 Parking in front or back, but guests are required to enter through the front door and sign in.
August 11	9:30 a.m. to noon	Rowan College at Gloucester County (formerly Gloucester County College) Nursing and Allied Health Building (no room number) 1400 Tanyard Rd. Sewell, NJ 08080 There will be signage indicating "DHS Hearing".