

# Elimination of Waitlist-Related Policy Changes

August 14, 2024

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# Supporting Independence

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# Remote Monitoring for Independence

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ALL ICF Waivers- CDD, DDAD, FSW

Remote Support leverages technology to allow providers to assist participants from another location through live, two-way communication. This setup enables providers to monitor participants' health and safety using real-time data from sensors and alerts, without being physically present. The goals of Remote Support include promoting independence, increasing self-determination, and fostering self-reliance and confidence, thereby reducing the need for paid staff in home and community activities. Remote Supports are not intended for surveillance; electronic support systems, such as on-demand video or web cameras, are used only when requested by the individual and identified in their person-centered plan (PCP). Full consent from the individual and their guardian is required for the use of Remote Support technology, and consent can be revoked at any time.

Remote Support includes Consultation, Equipment, and Service Delivery.

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# Health Maintenance Monitoring

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ALL ICF Waivers- CDD, DDAD, FSW

Health Maintenance Monitoring involves the ongoing checking of a participant's physical health. This includes monitoring personal health and collecting medical data to improve the management, care, and support for chronic medical conditions. The goal is to identify any changes or concerns early, allowing for prompt intervention and prevention of serious health complications. Health professionals provide education, support, and guidance on effectively managing conditions by teaching participants or guardians how to monitor symptoms, follow treatment plans, and make lifestyle modifications to maintain their health and well-being.

Remote Support includes Consultation, Equipment, and Service Delivery.

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# Retirement Service

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## CDD and DDAD Waivers

Adult Day Retirement is a non-habilitative service designed for individuals aged 65 and older, focusing on meaningful day activities in the participant's home. It provides active support to foster independence, including assistance with daily living activities, health maintenance, and supervision. Unlike habilitation services, Adult Day Retirement does not involve training goals or strategies and offers limited opportunities for community engagement due to the participants' age, health issues, and limitations.

Providers are also restricted from involving participants in work or volunteer activities.

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# Supporting Employment

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# Benefits Counseling

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## CDD and DDAD Waivers

Benefits Counseling informs participants about pathways to achieving individualized integrated employment or self-employment, leading to increased economic self-sufficiency through various work incentives. This service alleviates fears related to seeking and maintaining employment by providing accurate, individualized assessments. It offers comprehensive information on available work incentives for essential benefit programs, including SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, housing subsidies, and food stamps. Benefits Counseling includes three service delivery options: Benefits Education, which introduces participants to their benefits and available work incentives; Benefits Planning, which provides a detailed analysis of current benefits and earnings with a plan to maintain supports while working; and Benefits Management, which offers problem-solving and advocacy support for participants experiencing changes in benefits, income, or resources.

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# Employment Exploration

## CDD and DDAD Waivers

Employment Exploration is a time-limited service, completed within thirty days, designed to help individuals make informed choices about pursuing individualized integrated employment or self-employment. It includes career exploration activities to identify specific interests, aptitudes, and transferable skills through uniquely arranged business tours, informational interviews, and job shadows tailored to each participant's interests and skills. This service also provides introductory education on work incentives for publicly funded benefits (e.g., SSI, SSDI, Medicaid) and Supported Employment services, ensuring the participant and their legal guardian or family understand and support the decision to pursue employment. The service involves approximately forty hours of activity, documented in detail, and culminates in a written report summarizing the process and outcomes.

Employment Exploration adheres to person-centered planning principles and helps align employment outcomes with the participant's overall goals documented in their Individualized Service Plan (ISP). It is not a prerequisite for Supported Employment services under the waiver.

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# Non-Service Changes

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## CDD and DDAD Waivers

We are exploring modifications to the inclusion of Supported Employment hours within the 35-hour day service limit. This could involve either fully exempting these hours or including them at a prorated rate. Our goal is to enhance flexibility and support for individuals pursuing integrated employment.

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# Supporting Participant Needs

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# Services and Supports Changes

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## Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities (CDD) Waiver

### Residential Habilitation Unbundling

- Shared Living (limit placements to age 19+ after July 1, 2025)
- Continuous Home (limit placements to age 19+ after July 1, 2025)
- Host Home (limit placements to age 19+ after July 1, 2025)
- Youth Continuous Home (under 19)

### Remove Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Requirement

- Medical In-Home Habilitation
- Behavioral In-Home Habilitation

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# Expand Participant Support Network

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## All ICF Waivers

We are considering expanding payments to Parents of Minor Children and Guardians who are the spouse, adult child, or other relative of the participant when employed by an Agency Provider, to address current workforce challenges and better support both participants and providers.

These changes may lead to adjustments in the application of the Parental Portion to more accurately reflect and compensate for the ordinary care responsibilities undertaken by Parents and Guardians of Minor Children. This approach aims to enhance support for those providing essential care while also alleviating workforce shortages in the care sector.

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# Level of Care Assessment

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## All ICF Waivers

- Updates to the Waiver Criteria including Level of Care Assessment to move towards a standardized assessment tool
  - Developmental Index → interRAI ID (Adults) & interRAI ChYMh-DD (Youth)
  - Additional information DD Waitlist Elimination website: [dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Wait-List.aspx](https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Wait-List.aspx)
- The interRAI assessments were selected for their alignment with Nebraska's LOC criteria and their utility for person-centered planning and needs assessment.

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# Other Changes

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## ▶ Statutes

- Request changes to Neb Rev Stat 68-1530 to remove Family Support Waiver participant limitations

## ▶ Regulations

- Regulation updates to 403 NAC 1-6 (still in Draft based on proposed waiver changes)
- Regulation updates to 404 NAC 2-4 (still in Draft based on proposed waiver changes)

## ▶ DD Policy

- Updates to chapters 1-9
- Still in Draft based on proposed waiver changes

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