

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE &
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES**

PUBLIC NOTICE OF WAIVER RENEWAL

Home and Community-Based Services Individual and Family Support Waiver (IFS)

The Director of the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), pursuant to the authority set forth in an Act to enable the District of Columbia to receive federal financial assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act for a medical assistance program, and for other purposes, approved December 27, 1967 (81 Stat. 744; D.C. Official Code § 1-307.02 (2019 Supp.)), and the Department of Health Care Finance Establishment Act of 2007, effective February 27, 2008 (D.C. Law 17-109; D.C. Official Code § 7-771.01 *et seq.*), and the Director of the Department on Disability Services (DDS), pursuant to authority set forth in Title I of the Department on Disability Services Establishment Act of 2006, effective March 14, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-264; D.C. Official Code § 7-761.01 *et seq.*), hereby give notice of their intent to submit an application for the District of Columbia Medicaid's renewal Home and Community-Based Services for Individual and Family Support (IFS) Waiver program to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for review and approval.

The IFS Waiver allows District residents with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) who live in an independent environment, either in their own homes or with family or friends, to receive HCBS services and support tailored to their specific needs. DDS is proposing to renew and streamline the IFS Waiver to further meet the needs of individuals who can leverage support from family or friends without institutional services. In this way, the IFS Waiver will continue to offer person-centered services that meet the person's needs in the least restrictive setting and apply the highest standards of quality and national best practices.

The IFS Waiver will continue to offer a full range of health and clinical services necessary to help people with complex support needs and their families to choose an alternative to institutional services that promotes community inclusion and independence by enhancing, not replacing, existing informal networks. The proposed IFS Waiver amendments in this renewal application contain six (6) types of substantive changes to be effective October 1, 2025, or upon approval by CMS, whichever is later, as follows: (1) modify the scope of specific services; (2) modify staff training requirements; (3) modify HCBS settings qualifications training requirements and person-centered plan development for Service Coordinators; (4) modifies the annual physical examination performance measure; (5) modify Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP)/Qualified Developmental Disabilities Professional (QDDP) qualifications and requirements; and (6) sets reimbursement rates for direct support professional living wage rates.

The changes will impact the following services: (1) Assistive Technology; (2) Behavioral Supports; (3) Creative Arts Therapies; (4) Day Habilitation; (5) Employment Readiness; (6) Individual-Directed Goods and Services; (7) In-Homes Supports; (8) Participant-Directed Services; (9) Personal Emergency Response System; and (10) Remote Support Services. Additionally, the following services will include a telehealth option: (1) Assistive technology assessment; (2) Behavioral Support Services; (3) Creative Arts Therapies; (4) Family Training Services; (5) Occupational Therapy Services; (6) Parenting Support Services; (7) Speech, Hearing, and Language Services; and (9) Wellness Services, including bereavement counseling, fitness training, nutrition evaluation and counseling, and sexuality education.

The period for public comment will begin on May 16, 2025, and end on June 16, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. There are two opportunities for the public to provide comments or other input on the

proposed HCBS IFS Renewal Waiver Application:

First, written comments on the proposed new HCBS IFS Waiver application shall be submitted to: Benjamin Ebeigbe, Director, Long Term Care Administration, Department of Health Care Finance, 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 900S, Washington, D.C. 20001, or via email at dhcfpubliccomments@dc.gov during the thirty (30) calendar day public comment period, starting from the date this notice is published in the *D.C. Register*.

Second, DHCF and DDS will hold a virtual public forum during which written and oral comments on the proposed new IFS Waiver application will be accepted. The virtual public forum will be held on May 23, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Scheduling information for the public forum will be posted on the DDS website at [HCBS IFS Waiver 2025 Renewal | dds](#). Individuals can join the public forum by telephone by dialing 1-646-931-3860 and using the access code 869 2072 4982. Web conference information will be available on the DDS Website at [HCBS IFS Waiver 2025 Renewal | dds](#).

Accommodations for the public forum are available upon request. Please provide your name, address, telephone number, organizational affiliation and accommodation request, if needed to Donnise Taylor at (202) 730-1556 or email Donnise.Taylor@dc.gov.

Electronic copies of this notice also will be published on the DDS website at <http://dds.dc.gov>.

A summary of all proposed substantive changes in the renewal application, including detailed information about any substantive changes to rates, and copies of the proposed IFS Waiver renewal application may be obtained on the DDS website at <http://dds.dc.gov/ifs-waiver-renewal>, and is available upon request from Winslow Woodland, Deputy Director, D.C. Department on Disability Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration Division, 250 E Street SW, 5th Floor, Washington DC 20024, or by email to winslow.woodland@dc.gov.