

WAIVER REDESIGN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services and the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services have received some common questions and concerns about the current waiver redesign project. We have created this short FAQ that we hope will clarify the process and intent of the BDDS Waiver Redesign.

What is waiver redesign?

The waiver redesign project is a multi-year process to modernize and improve the services and supports available through BDDS Home and Community-Based Services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. BDDS is committed to partnering with all stakeholders throughout this process through active communication and engagement.

Why are you redesigning the waivers?

Over the years we have heard concerns from families and individuals that the current waiver structure or service array isn't supporting them in a way that is meaningful and creates barriers to achieving success. The waiver redesign project provides a unique opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate with BDDS in developing waivers that are innovative and support individuals and families in living their vision of a good life.

What waivers are being redesigned?

BDDS administers the Family Support and Community Integration and Habilitation waivers. The waiver redesign will only include and affect these waivers. The Aged and Disabled Waiver and the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver are administered by the Division of Aging and therefore are not a part of this redesign.

If I'm already on a waiver, will I have to reapply when the redesign is complete?

Individuals currently on a waiver will not be required to reapply. It may be necessary to reassess the individual's needs once the structure of the new waivers are determined to ensure that the individual is receiving services on the waiver that best fits their needs.

Will there be a waitlist?

Currently there is a waitlist for the Family Support Waiver. It is difficult to determine if there will be a waitlist for the new waivers until the new structure is decided upon. There are many factors that can affect when a waitlist must be maintained. At the time of implementation of the new waivers, information such as number of people who are on the waitlist at that time and the budgeted number of waivers available will allow us to determine if a waitlist will be necessary.

I can't find staff. Will the redesign make this easier?

There is a staffing shortage in Indiana and nationwide. While there is not a single solution to this issue, through waiver redesign, we hope to provide a variety of strategies that work together to provide multiple avenues to meet your support needs and address staff shortages. Many of these strategies include providing more innovative opportunities to get your support needs met. This may be through technology, peer supports, community supports, and your friends and family. Another strategy is to establish and conduct a thorough rate methodology through a third party contractor to ensure rates reflect the costs associated with delivering each service that we offer.

What kinds of services will be offered on the new waivers?

We don't know yet and we need your help! In the initial concept paper there are ideas for new types of services that could become part of the new waivers. These service options are just ideas and no final decisions have been made yet. We need you to share your ideas and thoughts to help us make the best decisions. It is also helpful if you can share your experiences with any current services so that we know which ones are working well and which ones need some adjustments.

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Is the waiver redesign the same as the waiver renewals?

No, this redesign project is distinctly different from the Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver and the Family Supports Waiver renewals. Every five years states are required to renew their waiver with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. The renewal allows us to continue to provide waiver services. During the renewal, we had the opportunity to make a few changes to some of the service options on our current waivers. These changes will take effect on April 17, 2020. BDDS will provide an announcement outlining those changes prior to April 17. To read the current and proposed waivers, visit: www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2639.htm.

Where can I find information about waiver redesign?

All information and announcements including the full initial concept paper, an executive summary of the initial concept paper and webinar recordings can be found at <https://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/5733.htm>

How can I share my feedback with BDDS?

BDDS encourages all interested stakeholders to provide feedback and share ideas. We have a number of ways you can do this:

- Email your comments to DDRSwaivernoticecomment@fssa.IN.gov.
- Complete the electronic survey available by clicking here.
- Attend a Building Bridges meeting where you will be able to speak with and hear from BDDS leadership.
- Attend a feedback session hosted by the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, in partnership with Self-Advocates of Indiana and The Arc of Indiana.
- Follow our Facebook page where we are posting information and asking for comments.

All comments on the initial concept paper will be taken until April 17, 2020.

After that time, we will begin compiling all the feedback to draft a final concept paper that will more clearly outline the path of the new waivers. The release of the final concept paper will have additional opportunities at that time to provide feedback.

When will the waiver redesign be completed?

BDDS is working to be thoughtful and deliberate in developing waivers that provide supports to assist you in living your best life. We estimate that the new waivers will be completed and implemented by early 2022.

How will this impact me?

BDDS hopes that the new waivers will provide you with additional and more meaningful opportunities for support in living your good life. BDDS is working to ensure that the transition to the new waivers will provide minimal disruption to the services you are currently receiving. We will be working closely with you, case management companies and waiver providers to safeguard services currently in place. We estimate that the new waivers will be completed and implemented by early 2022.

Are there any other ways I can stay updated as changes happen?

Yes! Here is a list of ways to stay connected:

- Subscribe to the *INvision* newsletter for individuals and families: www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/5493.htm
- Sign up to receive DDRS Announcements by visiting <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INFSSA/subscriber/new>
- Follow us on Facebook
- Attend DDRS Advisory Council meetings that are open to the public: www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/3355.htm
- Regularly check the BDDS Waiver Redesign page at: www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/5733.htm

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