



Open for Public Comment: Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) 5-Year Renewal

ODP Announcement 26-011

AUDIENCE:

All Stakeholders

PURPOSE:

To inform all interested stakeholders of the opportunity to submit public comments on the proposed renewal of the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) effective July 1, 2026. **The public comment period starts on January 17, 2026, and ends on February 16, 2026, at 11:59 PM.**

DISCUSSION:

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is pleased to invite public comment on proposed changes for the renewal of the AAW. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approves waivers for a five-year period. The current AAW expires on June 30, 2026. Therefore, ODP must submit a renewal for the AAW to CMS no later than April 1, 2026. The AAW renewal is anticipated to be effective on July 1, 2026. As part of this process, ODP is seeking your valuable feedback and comments on the AAW.

Proposed substantive changes include:

- Separating out Life Sharing and Residential Habilitation: Community Homes as distinct services.

- Removing the lifetime funding limit on Assistive Technology devices and replacing it with a \$3,000 annual limit. Participants who need Assistive Technology that exceeds this limit may request an exception.
- Extending the re-authorization period for Career Planning services from 90 days to six months and removing time limitations for the Supported Employment service.
- Clarifying the components of the Specialized Skill Development (SSD) service.
- Removing Speech/Language service component from the Therapy service.
- Enhancing Home Modification service to include additional allowances.

Additionally, as part of the renewal process, all Appendices and services in the AAW were reviewed and, when necessary, updated to reflect continuous improvements and changes across ODP's service system.

A notice has been published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, Volume 56, Number 3, published on Saturday, January 17, 2026. This notice contains an overview of waiver changes, including how to provide comments, and can be read at [Pennsylvania Bulletin](#).

Submitting Comments:

The proposed changes discussed in the section above are available to help all interested persons provide public comment at the following link [July 2026 Proposed Waiver Renewal for Public Comment](#).

Public comment will be accepted via email, written comments, and verbal comments during a webinar held on February 9, 2026. All comments received by 11:59 PM on February 16th, 2026, will be reviewed and considered for revisions to the AAW submitted to CMS.

Comments regarding all documents in this communication should be addressed to RAodpcomment@pa.gov or sent to:

Megan Ham
Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs,
625 Forster Street, Room 510,
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Webinar Registration:

ODP is hosting a public comment webinar to provide an overview of the proposed changes to the AAW effective July 1, 2026. Registered participants will have the opportunity to provide verbal comments during the session.

Audience	Date	Time	Registration Link
All stakeholders	Monday, February 9th	1:00-2:30pm	General Stakeholder Registration

CONTACT:

Questions about this announcement should be directed to ra-odpcomment@pa.gov.