



Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

September 18, 2026

Ryan Moran, Director
Trinity Wilson, Medicaid Director
Health Care Authority
PO Box 45502
Olympia, WA 98504-5010

RE: Washington Wildfire Emergency Appendix K Amendments

Dear Director Moran and Director Wilson,

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approves Washington's request to amend the following 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers with the Emergency Preparedness and Response Appendix K amendments to respond to the emergency related to wildfires in Washington state. Please use these control numbers in future correspondence relevant to these waiver actions:

Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Waivers	Control Number
Basic Plus Waiver	WA.0409.R04.07
Core Waiver	WA.0410.R04.08
Community Protection Waiver	WA.0411.R04.07
Individual and Family Services	WA.1186.R02.03
Children's Intensive In-Home Behavioral Supports Waiver	WA.40669.R03.06
Home and Community Living Administration (HCLA) Waivers	Control Number
COPEs Waiver	WA.0049.R09.03
New Freedom Waiver	WA.0443.R04.03
Residential Supports Waiver	WA.1086.R02.03

Effective August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027, these amendments add an Appendix K to the waivers to permit the state to allow the following flexibilities for individuals living in counties impacted by the wildfires:

For the DDA waivers, temporarily:

- Extend aggregate budgets limits for the Basic Plus, Individual and Family Services and Children's Intensive In-home Behavior Supports waivers;
- Expand settings where direct care services may be provided;
- Allow currently contracted respite providers to provide respite more than 30 days out of state;
- Allow payment for residential habilitation service providers to accompany client to acute care hospital accordance with section 1902(h)(1) for the Core and Community Protection waivers; and



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- Allow retainer payments for residential habilitation.

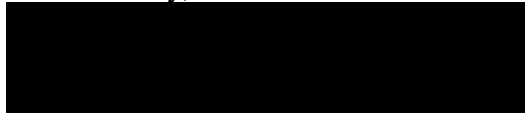
For the HCLA waivers, temporarily:

- Extend the timeframe in which a waiver service can be provided while a client remains eligible;
- Allow the replacement of goods, environmental modifications, and specialized equipment and supplies that were lost or damaged in the fires;
- In the COPES waiver, temporarily increase the amount and duration of services;
- Expand settings where services can be provided; and
- Allow retainer payments to adult day health and adult day care providers and residential providers (AFH, ALF, ESF).

Please find attached the approved Appendix K pages for these waivers with this correspondence. Please utilize the waiver management system for HCBS waivers for any further amendments to these waiver programs other than Appendix K.

Thank you for your cooperation during the review process. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact me at (410) 786-7561. You may also contact Nick Sukachevin at Nickom.Sukachevin@cms.hhs.gov or (206) 615-2416.

Sincerely,



George P. Failla, Jr., Director
Division of HCBS Operations and Oversight

cc: Jason McGill, HCA
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