

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-14-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group

January 19, 2021

Tara LeBlanc
Interim Medicaid Executive Director
Bureau of Health Services Financing
628 North Fourth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. LeBlanc:

We are writing to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving Louisiana's request to amend the following 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers with the Emergency Preparedness and Response Appendix Ks in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic:

<u>WAIVER TITLE</u>	<u>CMS AMENDMENT CONTROL NUMBER</u>
New Opportunities Waiver	LA.0401.R03.14
Residential Options Waiver	LA.0472.R02.09
Supports Waiver	LA.0453.R03.08
Children's Choice Waiver	LA.0361.R04.09
Community Choices Waiver	LA.0866.R02.07
Adult Day Health Care Waiver	LA.0121.R07.07
Coordinated System of Care	LA.0889.R01.09

The amendments that the state has requested in the Appendix Ks are additive to those previously approved and are effective from January 27, 2020 to six months after the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE) for COVID-19; they apply in all locations served by the individual waivers for anyone impacted by COVID-19.

Please note the guidance issued in the December 22, 2020 State Health Official Letter (SHO). Specifically, flexibilities approved via the 1135 authority expire at the end of the PHE. We advise that the state review the SHO, as well as the flexibilities approved via the 1135 authority and consider if adjustments need to be made in the Appendix K to compensate for the loss of the 1135 options. For example, CMS strongly advises that a state that waived regulatory requirements of a home and community-based setting for any new settings being used during the PHE, assess those settings to determine if they are appropriate for use in the six months after the PHE expires.

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

If you need assistance, feel free to contact Amanda Hill of my staff at 410-786-2457 or by e-mail at Amanda.Hill@cms.hhs.gov or Mary Marchioni at 303-844-7094 or by e-mail at Mary.Marchioni@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Alissa Mooney DeBoy
Director, DEHPG

Enclosure