

Adult Services and Aging Waiver Renewal Application
Summary of Proposed Changes

The Division of Adult Services and Aging (ASA) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver is due for renewal on July 1, 2016 with an anticipated effective date of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2021. The changes that have been included in the waiver renewal application are described below.

First, there have been changes to the services included in the Adult Services and Aging Waiver. Chore services will be added as an available service for waiver consumers. Chore services are defined in the renewal application as services needed to maintain the home in a healthy and safe environment. Chore services may include, but are not limited to, the following tasks: lawn mowing, snow and ice removal from sidewalks and driveways or those services which the home owner is required to complete by city or county ordinance.

Additionally, the medical equipment definition will be expanded. The new definition will allow Adult Services and Aging to provide a wider range of medical equipment, including assistive technology, which is anticipated to enable consumers to remain living in their homes and communities. Medical equipment is defined in the renewal application as specialized medical equipment that enables a consumer to increase his or her ability to perform activities of daily living and assists a consumer to remain living safely at home. This includes, but is not limited to, the rental, purchase, and/or installation of devices, controls, sensors, or appliances such as devices programmed to automatically dispense medications, equipment that monitors health status (e.g., telehealth), wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, and assistive devices. Medical equipment reimbursed with waiver funds are in addition to any medical equipment furnished under the State Plan and exclude those items that are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the consumer.

Second, the maintenance needs allowance for an in-home waiver consumers will increase from SSI plus \$300, to 300% of SSI, which will allow in-home waiver consumers to keep more money to pay for expenses such as rent/mortgage, utilities, clothing, food, etc. This is in response to increasing cost of living expenses and the difficulty in-home consumers have meeting their financial obligations. The increased needs allowance will reduce the consumer's responsibility to share in the cost of his/her services, making the waiver a more viable option for consumers.

Third, the earned income allowance for a consumer residing in an Assisted Living will be \$75. This will benefit consumers residing in Assisted Livings as they will be able to keep up to \$75 in earned income in addition to a \$60 maintenance needs allowance.

In addition to these changes, non-medical transportation and other services recommended by the Adult Services and Aging Home and Community-Based Services Workgroup, will be further evaluated. Once the evaluation is complete, Adult Service and Aging will consider implementation of additional services through a Waiver amendment.