



RODERICK L. BREMBY  
Commissioner

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

TELEPHONE  
(860) 424-5053

TDD/TTY  
1-855-470-3767

FAX  
(860) 424-5057

EMAIL  
[commis.dss@ct.gov](mailto:commis.dss@ct.gov)

Honorable Catherine Osten, Democratic Senate Chair, Appropriations  
Honorable Paul Formica, Republican Senate Chair, Appropriations  
Honorable Toni E. Walker, House Chair, Appropriations  
Honorable Melissa Ziobron, House Ranking Member, Appropriations

Honorable Marilyn Moore, Democratic Senate Chair, Human Services  
Honorable Joe Markley, Republican Senate Chair, Human Services  
Honorable Catherine Abercrombie, House Chair, Human Services  
Honorable Jay Case, House Ranking Member, Human Services

Appropriations Committee  
Human Services Committee

DATE: August 25, 2017

RE: Renewal of the Connecticut Home and Community Supports Waiver for Persons with Autism

Dear Honorable Co-Chairs and Ranking Members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of section 17b-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services intends to renew the Connecticut Home and Community Supports Waiver for Persons with Autism (Lifespan waiver).

The Lifespan waiver provides a variety of home-based services to eligible participants age 3 and older. Services may include, but are not limited to: Life skills coach, respite, behavioral services, social skills group, and community mentors.

As part of the renewal process, the Department is also seeking to implement the following changes:

- 1) Changing the operating agency for the waiver from the Department of Developmental Services to the Department of Social Services- In May 2016 of the Legislative special session, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 16-3. This Act changed the designated agency for autism spectrum disorder services from the Department of Developmental Services to the Department of Social Services (DSS). Corresponding changes were also promulgated in C.G.S. § 17a-215 and § 17a-215c. Accordingly, DSS also became the operating agency for the Lifespan waiver.
- 2) Reducing the individual service cost cap from \$60,000 per year to \$50,000 per year- The Department is proposing to reduce the individual service cost cap because individual utilization costs have never exceeded \$50,000 per year. While only three participants (out of the 94 currently active on the waiver) are authorized to receive more than \$50,000 in services per year, none of the participants have actually ever utilized more than \$50,000 in services per year. Therefore, no current waiver participants are expected to experience a service reduction as a result of this change.

- 3) Requiring providers to enroll as waiver providers and bill directly through the CT Medical Assistance Program- This process will enhance billing efficiencies and ensures accurate and prompt payments. Requiring providers to enroll and bill directly with DSS also eliminates the State's exposure to paying for redundant claims processing.
- 4) Eliminating unused services- Since the inception of the Lifespan waiver in 2013, the Community Companion Homes and Live-In Companion services have not been utilized. Accordingly, the Department is recommending these services be removed from the list of services provided under the waiver.

The Lifespan waiver is set to expire on December 31, 2017. With the approval of the General Assembly, and subsequent approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, this waiver renewal application will become effective on January 1, 2018.

Pursuant to C.G.S. § 17b-8, the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the waiver renewal was posted for public review and comment in the CT Law Journal beginning July 11, 2017. The NOI was also posted on the DSS website beginning July 11, 2017 for 30 days.

In addition to this letter, attached for your review is a copy of the waiver renewal, the NOI and all comments received in response to the public notice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner

cc: Kathleen Brennan, Deputy Commissioner  
Kate McEvoy, Medicaid Director  
Kathy Bruni, Community Options Director  
Krista Ostaszewski, Legislative Liaison