

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-1: Specification of the Waiver Target Group(s)

**a. Target Group(s).** Under the waiver of Section 1902(a)(10)(B) of the Act, the state limits waiver services to one or more groups or subgroups of individuals. Please see the instruction manual for specifics regarding age limits. *In accordance with 42 CFR §441.301(b)(6), select one or more waiver target groups, check each of the subgroups in the selected target group(s) that may receive services under the waiver, and specify the minimum and maximum (if any) age of individuals served in each subgroup:*

Target Group	Included	Target SubGroup	Minimum Age	Maximum Age	
				Maximum Age Limit	No Maximum Age Limit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aged or Disabled, or Both - General					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aged	65		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disabled (Physical)	18	64	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disabled (Other)	18	64	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aged or Disabled, or Both - Specific Recognized Subgroups					
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brain Injury			<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HIV/AIDS			<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medically Fragile			<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology Dependent			<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Disability or Developmental Disability, or Both					
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Autism			<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Developmental Disability			<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intellectual Disability			<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Illness					
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental Illness			<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serious Emotional Disturbance			<input type="checkbox"/>

**b. Additional Criteria.** The state further specifies its target group(s) as follows:

Persons with disabilities may continue to participate in the waiver beyond age 64 as specified in the chart. The waiver is available only to persons who wish to direct their services.

**c. Transition of Individuals Affected by Maximum Age Limitation.** When there is a maximum age limit that applies to individuals who may be served in the waiver, describe the transition planning procedures that are undertaken on behalf of participants affected by the age limit (*select one*):

- Not applicable. There is no maximum age limit
- The following transition planning procedures are employed for participants who will reach the waiver's maximum age limit.

Specify:

Persons with disabilities may continue to participate in the waiver beyond the age of 64 as specified in the above chart. An anomaly in the web based application does not allow the maximum age limit in this section to be left blank.

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-2: Individual Cost Limit (1 of 2)

**a. Individual Cost Limit.** The following individual cost limit applies when determining whether to deny home and community-based services or entrance to the waiver to an otherwise eligible individual (*select one*). Please note that a state may have only ONE individual cost limit for the purposes of determining eligibility for the waiver:

- No Cost Limit.** The state does not apply an individual cost limit. *Do not complete Item B-2-b or item B-2-c.*
- Cost Limit in Excess of Institutional Costs.** The state refuses entrance to the waiver to any otherwise eligible individual when the state reasonably expects that the cost of the home and community-based services furnished to that individual would exceed the cost of a level of care specified for the waiver up to an amount specified by the state. *Complete Items B-2-b and B-2-c.*

**The limit specified by the state is (*select one*)**

- A level higher than 100% of the institutional average.**

Specify the percentage:

- Other**

*Specify:*

- Institutional Cost Limit.** Pursuant to 42 CFR 441.301(a)(3), the state refuses entrance to the waiver to any otherwise eligible individual when the state reasonably expects that the cost of the home and community-based services furnished to that individual would exceed 100% of the cost of the level of care specified for the waiver. *Complete Items B-2-b and B-2-c.*
- Cost Limit Lower Than Institutional Costs.** The state refuses entrance to the waiver to any otherwise qualified individual when the state reasonably expects that the cost of home and community-based services furnished to that individual would exceed the following amount specified by the state that is less than the cost of a level of care specified for the waiver.

*Specify the basis of the limit, including evidence that the limit is sufficient to assure the health and welfare of waiver participants. Complete Items B-2-b and B-2-c.*

**The cost limit specified by the state is (*select one*):**

- The following dollar amount:**

Specify dollar amount:

**The dollar amount (*select one*)**

- Is adjusted each year that the waiver is in effect by applying the following formula:**

Specify the formula:

- May be adjusted during the period the waiver is in effect. The state will submit a waiver amendment to CMS to adjust the dollar amount.**
- The following percentage that is less than 100% of the institutional average:**

Specify percent:

- Other:**

*Specify:*

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-2: Individual Cost Limit (2 of 2)

**Answers provided in Appendix B-2-a indicate that you do not need to complete this section.**

**b. Method of Implementation of the Individual Cost Limit.** When an individual cost limit is specified in Item B-2-a, specify the procedures that are followed to determine in advance of waiver entrance that the individual's health and welfare can be assured within the cost limit:

**c. Participant Safeguards.** When the state specifies an individual cost limit in Item B-2-a and there is a change in the participant's condition or circumstances post-entrance to the waiver that requires the provision of services in an amount that exceeds the cost limit in order to assure the participant's health and welfare, the state has established the following safeguards to avoid an adverse impact on the participant (*check each that applies*):

- The participant is referred to another waiver that can accommodate the individual's needs.**
- Additional services in excess of the individual cost limit may be authorized.**

Specify the procedures for authorizing additional services, including the amount that may be authorized:

- Other safeguard(s)**

*Specify:*

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-3: Number of Individuals Served (1 of 4)

**a. Unduplicated Number of Participants.** The following table specifies the maximum number of unduplicated participants who are served in each year that the waiver is in effect. The state will submit a waiver amendment to CMS to modify the

number of participants specified for any year(s), including when a modification is necessary due to legislative appropriation or another reason. The number of unduplicated participants specified in this table is basis for the cost-neutrality calculations in Appendix J:

**Table: B-3-a**

Waiver Year	Unduplicated Number of Participants
Year 1	675
Year 2	675
Year 3	675
Year 4	675
Year 5	675

**b. Limitation on the Number of Participants Served at Any Point in Time.** Consistent with the unduplicated number of participants specified in Item B-3-a, the state may limit to a lesser number the number of participants who will be served at any point in time during a waiver year. Indicate whether the state limits the number of participants in this way: *(select one)* :

- The state does not limit the number of participants that it serves at any point in time during a waiver year.**
- The state limits the number of participants that it serves at any point in time during a waiver year.**

The limit that applies to each year of the waiver period is specified in the following table:

**Table: B-3-b**

Waiver Year	Maximum Number of Participants Served At Any Point During the Year
Year 1	[ ]
Year 2	[ ]
Year 3	[ ]
Year 4	[ ]
Year 5	[ ]

**Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility**

**B-3: Number of Individuals Served (2 of 4)**

**c. Reserved Waiver Capacity.** The state may reserve a portion of the participant capacity of the waiver for specified purposes (e.g., provide for the community transition of institutionalized persons or furnish waiver services to individuals experiencing a crisis) subject to CMS review and approval. The State *(select one)*:

- Not applicable. The state does not reserve capacity.**
- The state reserves capacity for the following purpose(s).**

**Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility**

**B-3: Number of Individuals Served (3 of 4)**

**d. Scheduled Phase-In or Phase-Out.** Within a waiver year, the state may make the number of participants who are served

subject to a phase-in or phase-out schedule (*select one*):

- The waiver is not subject to a phase-in or a phase-out schedule.
- The waiver is subject to a phase-in or phase-out schedule that is included in Attachment #1 to Appendix B-3. This schedule constitutes an intra-year limitation on the number of participants who are served in the waiver.

**e. Allocation of Waiver Capacity.**

*Select one:*

- Waiver capacity is allocated/managed on a statewide basis.
- Waiver capacity is allocated to local/regional non-state entities.

Specify: (a) the entities to which waiver capacity is allocated; (b) the methodology that is used to allocate capacity and how often the methodology is reevaluated; and, (c) policies for the reallocation of unused capacity among local/regional non-state entities:

**f. Selection of Entrants to the Waiver.** Specify the policies that apply to the selection of individuals for entrance to the waiver:

The state does not anticipate deferring the entrance of otherwise eligible persons.

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-3: Number of Individuals Served - Attachment #1 (4 of 4)

Answers provided in Appendix B-3-d indicate that you do not need to complete this section.

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-4: Eligibility Groups Served in the Waiver

**a. 1. State Classification.** The state is a (*select one*):

- §1634 State
- SSI Criteria State
- 209(b) State

**2. Miller Trust State.**

Indicate whether the state is a Miller Trust State (*select one*):

- No
- Yes

**b. Medicaid Eligibility Groups Served in the Waiver.** Individuals who receive services under this waiver are eligible under the following eligibility groups contained in the state plan. The state applies all applicable federal financial participation limits under the plan. *Check all that apply:*

*Eligibility Groups Served in the Waiver (excluding the special home and community-based waiver group under 42 CFR §435.217)*

- Low income families with children as provided in §1931 of the Act
- SSI recipients

- Aged, blind or disabled in 209(b) states who are eligible under 42 CFR §435.121
- Optional state supplement recipients
- Optional categorically needy aged and/or disabled individuals who have income at:

Select one:

- 100% of the Federal poverty level (FPL)
- % of FPL, which is lower than 100% of FPL.

Specify percentage:

- Working individuals with disabilities who buy into Medicaid (BBA working disabled group as provided in §1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XIII) of the Act)
- Working individuals with disabilities who buy into Medicaid (TWWIIA Basic Coverage Group as provided in §1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XV) of the Act)
- Working individuals with disabilities who buy into Medicaid (TWWIIA Medical Improvement Coverage Group as provided in §1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XVI) of the Act)
- Disabled individuals age 18 or younger who would require an institutional level of care (TEFRA 134 eligibility group as provided in §1902(e)(3) of the Act)
- Medically needy in 209(b) States (42 CFR §435.330)
- Medically needy in 1634 States and SSI Criteria States (42 CFR §435.320, §435.322 and §435.324)
- Other specified groups (include only statutory/regulatory reference to reflect the additional groups in the state plan that may receive services under this waiver)

Specify:



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*Special home and community-based waiver group under 42 CFR §435.217) Note: When the special home and community-based waiver group under 42 CFR §435.217 is included, Appendix B-5 must be completed*

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- No. The state does not furnish waiver services to individuals in the special home and community-based waiver group under 42 CFR §435.217. Appendix B-5 is not submitted.
- Yes. The state furnishes waiver services to individuals in the special home and community-based waiver group under 42 CFR §435.217.

Select one and complete Appendix B-5.

- All individuals in the special home and community-based waiver group under 42 CFR §435.217
- Only the following groups of individuals in the special home and community-based waiver group under 42 CFR §435.217

Check each that applies:

- A special income level equal to:

Select one:

- 300% of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate (FBR)
- A percentage of FBR, which is lower than 300% (42 CFR §435.236)

Specify percentage:

- A dollar amount which is lower than 300%.**

Specify dollar amount:

- Aged, blind and disabled individuals who meet requirements that are more restrictive than the SSI program (42 CFR §435.121)**
- Medically needy without spend down in states which also provide Medicaid to recipients of SSI (42 CFR §435.320, §435.322 and §435.324)**
- Medically needy without spend down in 209(b) States (42 CFR §435.330)**
- Aged and disabled individuals who have income at:**

Select one:

- 100% of FPL**
- % of FPL, which is lower than 100%.**

Specify percentage amount:

- Other specified groups (include only statutory/regulatory reference to reflect the additional groups in the state plan that may receive services under this waiver)**

Specify:

Medically Needy with spend down consisting of the state's average monthly cost for Medicaid recipients in nursing facilities determined by multiplying the average daily Medicaid rate by 31. The Medicaid rate is adjusted every July and the state will update the standard in October to allow time to program this parameter in our eligibility system and to sync up with the private rate adjustment used for transfer of assets penalties. Occasional small adjustments in the Medicaid rate may occur at other times but these cannot be predicted. The rate used for eligibility will always be equal to or very close to our actual cost.

This standard will be used to reduce an individual's income to or below the medically needy income standard.

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-5: Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income (1 of 7)

In accordance with 42 CFR §441.303(e), Appendix B-5 must be completed when the state furnishes waiver services to individuals in the special home and community-based waiver group under 42 CFR §435.217, as indicated in Appendix B-4. Post-eligibility applies only to the 42 CFR §435.217 group.

- a. Use of Spousal Impoverishment Rules.** Indicate whether spousal impoverishment rules are used to determine eligibility for the special home and community-based waiver group under 42 CFR §435.217:

*Note: For the period beginning January 1, 2014 and extending through September 30, 2019 (or other date as required by law), the following instructions are mandatory. The following box should be checked for all waivers that furnish waiver services to the 42 CFR §435.217 group effective at any point during this time period.*

- Spousal impoverishment rules under §1924 of the Act are used to determine the eligibility of individuals with a community spouse for the special home and community-based waiver group. In the case of a participant with a community spouse, the state uses spousal post-eligibility rules under §1924 of the Act.**

*Complete Items B-5-e (if the selection for B-4-a-i is SSI State or §1634) or B-5-f (if the selection for B-4-a-i is 209b State) and Item B-5-g unless the state indicates that it also uses spousal post-eligibility rules for the time periods before January 1, 2014 or after September 30, 2019 (or other date as required by law).*

*Note: The following selections apply for the time periods before January 1, 2014 or after September 30, 2019 (or other date as required by law) (select one).*

- Spousal impoverishment rules under §1924 of the Act are used to determine the eligibility of individuals with a**

**community spouse for the special home and community-based waiver group.**

In the case of a participant with a community spouse, the state elects to *(select one)*:

- Use spousal post-eligibility rules under §1924 of the Act.**  
*(Complete Item B-5-b (SSI State) and Item B-5-d)*
- Use regular post-eligibility rules under 42 CFR §435.726 (SSI State) or under §435.735 (209b State)**  
*(Complete Item B-5-b (SSI State). Do not complete Item B-5-d)*
- Spousal impoverishment rules under §1924 of the Act are not used to determine eligibility of individuals with a community spouse for the special home and community-based waiver group. The state uses regular post-eligibility rules for individuals with a community spouse.**  
*(Complete Item B-5-b (SSI State). Do not complete Item B-5-d)*

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-5: Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income (2 of 7)

*Note: The following selections apply for the time periods before January 1, 2014 or after December 31, 2018.*

#### b. Regular Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income: SSI State.

The state uses the post-eligibility rules at 42 CFR 435.726 for individuals who do not have a spouse or have a spouse who is not a community spouse as specified in §1924 of the Act. Payment for home and community-based waiver services is reduced by the amount remaining after deducting the following allowances and expenses from the waiver participant's income:

#### i. Allowance for the needs of the waiver participant *(select one)*:

- The following standard included under the state plan**

*Select one:*

- SSI standard**
- Optional state supplement standard**
- Medically needy income standard**
- The special income level for institutionalized persons**

*(select one):*

- 300% of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate (FBR)**
- A percentage of the FBR, which is less than 300%**  
Specify the percentage:
- A dollar amount which is less than 300%.**  
Specify dollar amount:
- A percentage of the Federal poverty level**  
Specify percentage:
- Other standard included under the state Plan**

*Specify:*



**The following dollar amount**

Specify dollar amount:  If this amount changes, this item will be revised.

**The following formula is used to determine the needs allowance:**

*Specify:*

1. For recipients who live in their own home, the personal needs allowance is 100% of the federal poverty level.

2. For recipients who live in in a state-contracted residential facility (e.g., adult family home, assisted living facility), the needs allowance is 100% of the federal benefit rate (FBR).

In addition to the personal needs allowance in (1) or (2), an allowance will be made for (when applicable):

a) Any payee and/or court-ordered guardianship fees;

b) Any court-ordered guardianship-related costs; plus

c) An amount for employed individuals equal the first \$65 of the recipient’s earned income, plus one-half of any remaining earned income.

In any case, the total deductions under (1) or (2), plus additional deductions of (a), (b), and (c), will not exceed 300% of the federal benefit rate.

**Other**

*Specify:*

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**ii. Allowance for the spouse only (select one):**

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**Not Applicable**

**The state provides an allowance for a spouse who does not meet the definition of a community spouse in §1924 of the Act. Describe the circumstances under which this allowance is provided:**

*Specify:*

**Specify the amount of the allowance (select one):**

- SSI standard**
- Optional state supplement standard**
- Medically needy income standard**
- The following dollar amount:**

Specify dollar amount:  If this amount changes, this item will be revised.

**The amount is determined using the following formula:**

*Specify:*

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**iii. Allowance for the family (select one):**


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- Not Applicable (see instructions)**
- AFDC need standard**
- Medically needy income standard**
- The following dollar amount:**

Specify dollar amount:  The amount specified cannot exceed the higher of the need standard for a family of the same size used to determine eligibility under the state's approved AFDC plan or the medically needy income standard established under 42 CFR §435.811 for a family of the same size. If this amount changes, this item will be revised.

- The amount is determined using the following formula:**

*Specify:*

- Other**

*Specify:*

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**iv. Amounts for incurred medical or remedial care expenses not subject to payment by a third party, specified in 42 §CFR 435.726:**


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- a. Health insurance premiums, deductibles and co-insurance charges
- b. Necessary medical or remedial care expenses recognized under state law but not covered under the state's Medicaid plan, subject to reasonable limits that the state may establish on the amounts of these expenses.

Select one:

- Not Applicable (see instructions)** *Note: If the state protects the maximum amount for the waiver participant, not applicable must be selected.*
- The state does not establish reasonable limits.**
- The state establishes the following reasonable limits**

*Specify:*

The deduction for medical and remedial care expenses that were incurred as the result of imposition of a transfer of assets penalty is limited to zero.

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## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-5: Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income (3 of 7)

*Note: The following selections apply for the time periods before January 1, 2014 or after December 31, 2018.*

**c. Regular Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income: 209(B) State.**

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**Answers provided in Appendix B-4 indicate that you do not need to complete this section and therefore this section**

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is not visible.

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## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-5: Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income (4 of 7)

Note: The following selections apply for the time periods before January 1, 2014 or after December 31, 2018.

#### d. Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income Using Spousal Impoverishment Rules

The state uses the post-eligibility rules of §1924(d) of the Act (spousal impoverishment protection) to determine the contribution of a participant with a community spouse toward the cost of home and community-based care if it determines the individual's eligibility under §1924 of the Act. There is deducted from the participant's monthly income a personal needs allowance (as specified below), a community spouse's allowance and a family allowance as specified in the state Medicaid Plan. The state must also protect amounts for incurred expenses for medical or remedial care (as specified below).

##### i. Allowance for the personal needs of the waiver participant

(select one):

- SSI standard
- Optional state supplement standard
- Medically needy income standard
- The special income level for institutionalized persons
- A percentage of the Federal poverty level

Specify percentage:

- The following dollar amount:

Specify dollar amount:  If this amount changes, this item will be revised

- The following formula is used to determine the needs allowance:

Specify formula:

1. For recipients who live in their own home and are not married; are married but live apart from their spouse; or are married and both spouses are recipients of 1915(c) waiver services; the personal needs allowance is 100% of the federal poverty level.

2. For recipients who live in their own home and live with their spouse, the personal needs allowance is 100% of the federal benefit rate (FBR)

3. For recipients who live in a state-contracted residential facility (e.g., adult family home, assisted living facility), the maintenance allowance is 100% of the federal benefit rate (FBR)

In addition to the personal needs allowance in (1),(2) or (3), an allowance will be made for (when applicable):

- a) Any payee and/or court-ordered guardianship fees;
- b) Any court-ordered guardianship-related costs; plus
- c) An amount for employed individuals equal the first \$65 of the recipient's earned income, plus one-half of any remaining earned income.

In any case, the total deductions under (1),(2),or (3) plus additional deductions of (a), (b), and (c), will not exceed 300% of the federal benefit rate.

- Other

Specify:

**ii. If the allowance for the personal needs of a waiver participant with a community spouse is different from the amount used for the individual's maintenance allowance under 42 CFR §435.726 or 42 CFR §435.735, explain why this amount is reasonable to meet the individual's maintenance needs in the community.**

Select one:

- Allowance is the same  
 Allowance is different.

*Explanation of difference:*

For a participant who lives at home with their community spouse (where such spouse is not also a 1915(c) participant), additional income is allocated to the community spouse under post-eligibility rules, and the lower personal needs allowance of the participant (100% of the MNIL as opposed to 100% of the FPL) is reasonable as the combined retained income of the participant and community spouse is sufficient to meet the participant's maintenance needs at home.

**iii. Amounts for incurred medical or remedial care expenses not subject to payment by a third party, specified in 42 CFR §435.726:**

- a. Health insurance premiums, deductibles and co-insurance charges  
 b. Necessary medical or remedial care expenses recognized under state law but not covered under the state's Medicaid plan, subject to reasonable limits that the state may establish on the amounts of these expenses.

Select one:

- Not Applicable (see instructions)***Note: If the state protects the maximum amount for the waiver participant, not applicable must be selected.*  
 **The state does not establish reasonable limits.**  
 **The state uses the same reasonable limits as are used for regular (non-spousal) post-eligibility.**

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-5: Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income (5 of 7)

*Note: The following selections apply for the five-year period beginning January 1, 2014.*

**e. Regular Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income: §1634 State - 2014 through 2018.**

**Answers provided in Appendix B-5-a indicate the selections in B-5-b also apply to B-5-e.**

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-5: Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income (6 of 7)

*Note: The following selections apply for the five-year period beginning January 1, 2014.*

**f. Regular Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income: 209(B) State - 2014 through 2018.**

**Answers provided in Appendix B-4 indicate that you do not need to complete this section and therefore this section is not visible.**

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-5: Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income (7 of 7)

*Note: The following selections apply for the five-year period beginning January 1, 2014.*

#### g. Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income Using Spousal Impoverishment Rules - 2014 through 2018.

The state uses the post-eligibility rules of §1924(d) of the Act (spousal impoverishment protection) to determine the contribution of a participant with a community spouse toward the cost of home and community-based care. There is deducted from the participant's monthly income a personal needs allowance (as specified below), a community spouse's allowance and a family allowance as specified in the state Medicaid Plan. The state must also protect amounts for incurred expenses for medical or remedial care (as specified below).

**Answers provided in Appendix B-5-a indicate the selections in B-5-d also apply to B-5-g.**

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-6: Evaluation/Reevaluation of Level of Care

*As specified in 42 CFR §441.302(c), the state provides for an evaluation (and periodic reevaluations) of the need for the level(s) of care specified for this waiver, when there is a reasonable indication that an individual may need such services in the near future (one month or less), but for the availability of home and community-based waiver services.*

**a. Reasonable Indication of Need for Services.** In order for an individual to be determined to need waiver services, an individual must require: (a) the provision of at least one waiver service, as documented in the service plan, and (b) the provision of waiver services at least monthly or, if the need for services is less than monthly, the participant requires regular monthly monitoring which must be documented in the service plan. Specify the state's policies concerning the reasonable indication of the need for services:

#### i. Minimum number of services.

The minimum number of waiver services (one or more) that an individual must require in order to be determined to need waiver services is:

**ii. Frequency of services.** The state requires (select one):

- The provision of waiver services at least monthly**  
 **Monthly monitoring of the individual when services are furnished on a less than monthly basis**

*If the state also requires a minimum frequency for the provision of waiver services other than monthly (e.g., quarterly), specify the frequency:*

**b. Responsibility for Performing Evaluations and Reevaluations.** Level of care evaluations and reevaluations are performed (*select one*):

- Directly by the Medicaid agency**  
 **By the operating agency specified in Appendix A**  
 **By a government agency under contract with the Medicaid agency.**

*Specify the entity:*

- Other**  
*Specify:*

The operating agency performs the initial evaluation for level of care. Re-evaluations are performed by the two Area Agencies on Aging who are under contract with the operating agency.

- c. Qualifications of Individuals Performing Initial Evaluation:** Per 42 CFR §441.303(c)(1), specify the educational/professional qualifications of individuals who perform the initial evaluation of level of care for waiver applicants:

In addition to meeting the following minimum qualifications, staff must pass a background check prior to being hired and receive mandatory training prior to completing any evaluations.

Initial evaluations are performed by case managers who can be a Registered Nurse (licensed in the State) or a Social Service Specialist. For Social Service Specialists, minimum qualifications are as follows:

A Master's degree in social services, human services, behavioral sciences, or an allied field and two years of paid social service experience equivalent to a Social Service Specialist 2.

OR

A Bachelor's degree in social services, human services, behavioral sciences, or an allied field, and three years of paid social service experience performing functions equivalent to a Social Service Specialist 2.

NOTE: A two year Master's degree in one of the above fields that included a practicum will be substituted for one year of paid social service experience.

NOTE: Employees must successfully complete the formal training course sponsored by their division within one year of their appointment.

NOTE: Equivalent social service experience would include the previous classes of Caseworker 3 or higher.

OR

For Promotion only: A Bachelor's degree and three years of experience as a Caseworker 3, Social Worker 1A or B, Social Worker 2, Casework Supervisor Trainee, Casework Supervisor, Juvenile Rehabilitation Supervisor 1 or 2, or Juvenile Rehabilitation Counselor 2 in State service.

Job classification descriptions are available from the operating agency.

Training:

HCS and AAAs are required to develop and document a training plan for all new employees, which initially includes training on completing CARE assessment and application. At a minimum, the first five CARE assessments must be reviewed. After this, review of 50% of assessments for the next three months. After 3 months, additional reviews are completed at the supervisor's discretion based on the worker's performance. Ongoing, Supervisors are required to identify individual training needs for staff and arrange for the provision of that training

- d. Level of Care Criteria.** Fully specify the level of care criteria that are used to evaluate and reevaluate whether an individual needs services through the waiver and that serve as the basis of the state's level of care instrument/tool. Specify the level of care instrument/tool that is employed. State laws, regulations, and policies concerning level of care criteria and the level of care instrument/tool are available to CMS upon request through the Medicaid agency or the operating agency (if applicable), including the instrument/tool utilized.

The level of care criteria that are used to evaluate and reevaluate whether an individual needs services through the waiver and that serve as the basis of the State's level of care instrument/tool is fully specified in WAC 388-106-0355 (eligibility for nursing facility care services).

Nursing Facility Level of Care (NFLOC) is based on the following factors:

1. The Comprehensive Assessment Reporting Evaluation (CARE) tool is the assessment tool used to determine NFLOC. Functional criteria for NFLOC mean one of the following applies:

a. Care is required to be provided by or under the supervision of a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse on a daily basis; or

b. The individual has an unmet or partially met need with at least three of the following activities of daily living. For each ADL a minimum level of assistance is required in self performance and/or support provided (self performance and support provided is defined below).

The minimum level of assistance required for each ADL is:

-Eating: Support provided is setup; or

-Toileting and bathing: Self performance is supervision; or

-Transfer, bed mobility, and ambulation: Self performance is supervision and support provided is setup; or

-Medication management: Self performance is assistance required; or

-If the need for assistance in any activities listed in this section did not occur because the individual was unable or no provider was available to assist, that need is counted for the purpose in determining functional eligibility; or

c. The individual has an unmet or partially met need with at least two of the following activities of daily living:

The minimum level of assistance required for each ADL is:

-Eating: Self performance is supervision and support provided one person physical assist; or

-Toileting: Self performance is extensive assistance and support provided is one person physical assist; or

-Bathing: Self performance is limited assistance and support provided is one person physical assist; or

-Transfer and Mobility: Self performance is extensive assistance and support provided is one person physical assist; or

-Bed Mobility: includes limited assistance in self performance and the need for turning and repositioning; and support provided is one person physical assist;

-Medication Management: Assistance required daily in self performance; or

-If the need for assistance in any activities listed in this section did not occur because the individual was unable or no provider was available to assist, that need is counted for the purpose in determining functional eligibility; or

d. The individual has a cognitive impairment and requires supervision due to one or more of the following:

Disorientation, memory impairment, impaired decision making, or wandering and have an unmet or partially met need with at least one or more of the following:

The minimum level of assistance required for each ADL is:

-Eating: Self performance is supervision and support provided one person physical assist; or

-Toileting: Self performance is extensive assistance and support provided is one person physical assist; or

-Bathing: Self performance is limited assistance and support provided is one person physical assist; or

-Transfer and Mobility: Self performance is extensive assistance and support provided is one person physical assist; or

-Bed Mobility: includes limited assistance in self performance and the need for turning and repositioning; and support provided is one person physical assist;

-Medication Management: Assistance required daily in self performance; or

-If the need for assistance in any activities listed in this section did not occur because the individual was unable or no provider was available to assist, that need is counted for the purpose in determining functional eligibility.

"Self performance for ADLs" means what the individual actually did in the last seven days before the assessment, not what he/she might be capable of doing. Coding is based on the level of performance that occurred three or more times in the seven-day period and does not include support provided. Self-performance definitions and assessments are consistent with that used under the Minimum Data Set (MDS). This provides a common set of clinical data across all long term care settings. Self performance level is scored as:

- (a) Independent if the individual received no help or oversight, or if the individual needed help or oversight only once or twice;
- (b) Supervision if the individual received oversight (monitoring or standby), encouragement, or cueing three or more times;
- (c) Limited assistance if the individual was highly involved in the activity and given physical help in guided maneuvering of limbs or other non-weight bearing assistance on three or more occasions. For bathing, limited assistance means physical help is limited to transfer only;
- (d) Extensive assistance if the individual performed part of the activity, but on three or more occasions, the individual needed weight bearing support or the individual received full performance of the activity during part, but not all, of the activity. For bathing, extensive assistance means the individual needed physical help with part of the activity (other than transfer);
- (e) Total dependence if the individual received full caregiver performance of the activity and all subtasks during the entire seven-day period from others. Total dependence means complete nonparticipation by the individual in all aspects of the ADL; or
- (f) Activity did not occur if the individual or others did not perform an ADL over the last seven days before the individual's assessment. The activity may not have occurred because:
- (i) The individual was not able (e.g., walking, if paralyzed);
  - (ii) No provider was available to assist; or
  - (iii) The individual declined assistance with the task.
- "Support provided" means the highest level of support provided to the individual by others in the last seven days before the assessment, even if that level of support occurred only once.
- (a) No set-up or physical help provided by others;
  - (b) Set-up help only provided, which is the type of help characterized by providing the individual with articles, devices, or preparation necessary for greater self performance of the activity. (For example, set-up help includes but is not limited to giving or holding out an item or cutting food);
  - (c) One-person physical assist provided;
  - (d) Two- or more person physical assist provided; or
  - (e) Activity did not occur during entire seven-day period.
- \*\*\*\* The CARE tool is comprised of a built in algorithm (scoring system) of criteria that automatically places the participant in the one of seventeen classification groups based on the following four characteristics:
- (1) Cognitive performance.
  - (2) Clinical complexity.
  - (3) Mood/behaviors symptoms.
  - (4) Activities of daily living (ADLs).
- (1) When assessing for cognitive performance, the cognitive performance scale is utilized based on the following criteria:
- Whether a participant is comatose
  - The ability of a participant to be understood
  - Short-term memory problem
  - Total dependence in self-performance of eating.



The selection of this criteria will then determine a scoring of 1 through 6 on the cognitive performance scale. WAC 388-106-0095

(2) When assessing for clinical complexity criteria the algorithm will look for a combination of specific diagnoses or treatments paired with a specific number of points for ADLs that together will place the participant in this category. WAC 388-106-0095.

(3) When assessing for mood and behaviors, the algorithm has specific behaviors that are used as criteria and this also includes the status of that behavior (current, past), frequency, and alterability. If a participant has one or more of these behaviors listed in the assessment and the participant does not qualify for a higher group (clinical complexity, cognitive performance, exceptional criteria), the participant will be placed in this category. WAC 388-106-0100

(4) When assessing for activities of daily living, the algorithm applies a point value to each self-performance score per activity of daily living in CARE. WAC 388-106-0105 The ADLs assessed include:

- Personal hygiene
- Bed mobility
- Transfers
- Eating
- Toilet Use
- Dressing
- Locomotion in room,
- Locomotion outside of room, and
- Walk in room

(5) Based on these four clinic characteristics, the assessment tool also assesses exceptional care needs of individuals. The CARE tool algorithm has specific criteria, which when selected in combination, will place an individual in an exceptional care classification. This classification is generated by a combination of specific treatment needs in addition to an ADL score that is 22 or greater. WAC 388-106-0110

**e. Level of Care Instrument(s).** Per 42 CFR §441.303(c)(2), indicate whether the instrument/tool used to evaluate level of care for the waiver differs from the instrument/tool used to evaluate institutional level of care (*select one*):

- The same instrument is used in determining the level of care for the waiver and for institutional care under the state Plan.**
- A different instrument is used to determine the level of care for the waiver than for institutional care under the state plan.**

Describe how and why this instrument differs from the form used to evaluate institutional level of care and explain how the outcome of the determination is reliable, valid, and fully comparable.

**f. Process for Level of Care Evaluation/Reevaluation:** Per 42 CFR §441.303(c)(1), describe the process for evaluating waiver applicants for their need for the level of care under the waiver. If the reevaluation process differs from the evaluation process, describe the differences:

Case managers complete Level of Care evaluations using the automated assessment tool (CARE) and obtaining information from the client during the face to face interview, collateral contacts and medical records (as needed). CARE is used for both initial evaluations and re-evaluations. The re-evaluation process does not differ from the initial evaluation process. Evaluations are completed initially, at annual review, and when a significant change is determined by a report that there has been a change in the client's cognition, ADLs, mood and behaviors, or medical condition that will affect the client's benefit classification. Initial level of care evaluations are completed by HCS case managers. Care Consultants complete annual and significant change reviews. The participant's assigned Care Consultant is responsible for completing re-evaluations.

The timelines to complete each type of assessment is as follows:

- Initial assessments will be completed within 45 days of intake
- Annual and significant change assessments will be completed within 30 days of the assessment creation date

**g. Reevaluation Schedule.** Per 42 CFR §441.303(c)(4), reevaluations of the level of care required by a participant are conducted no less frequently than annually according to the following schedule (*select one*):

- Every three months**
- Every six months**
- Every twelve months**
- Other schedule**

*Specify the other schedule:*

Re-evaluations must be completed every twelve months and whenever there is a significant change in the client's condition.

**h. Qualifications of Individuals Who Perform Reevaluations.** Specify the qualifications of individuals who perform reevaluations (*select one*):

- The qualifications of individuals who perform reevaluations are the same as individuals who perform initial evaluations.**
- The qualifications are different.**

*Specify the qualifications:*

**i. Procedures to Ensure Timely Reevaluations.** Per 42 CFR §441.303(c)(4), specify the procedures that the state employs to ensure timely reevaluations of level of care (*specify*):

CARE generates an assessment timeliness report that Care Consultants use to identify the need to conduct reevaluations. Care Consultants use these reports to assure the timeliness of annual reviews. In addition to timeliness reports, an automated "tickler" notifies the Care Consultant 40 days in advance of the upcoming reassessment date.

Case management supervisors have a required schedule of record reviews for individual Care Consultants and are responsible for evaluating staff on assessment timeliness. In addition, supervisors use reports produced by CARE to track timeliness of assessments.

Quality monitoring of records includes monitoring for timeliness.

**j. Maintenance of Evaluation/Reevaluation Records.** Per 42 CFR §441.303(c)(3), the state assures that written and/or electronically retrievable documentation of all evaluations and reevaluations are maintained for a minimum period of 3 years as required in 45 CFR §92.42. Specify the location(s) where records of evaluations and reevaluations of level of care are maintained:

Electronically retrievable documentation of all evaluations and reevaluations is maintained for a minimum of three years at the state level. Written documentation of all evaluation and reevaluations are maintained for a minimum of three years at the local office.

## Appendix B: Evaluation/Reevaluation of Level of Care

### Quality Improvement: Level of Care

As a distinct component of the States quality improvement strategy, provide information in the following fields to detail the States methods for discovery and remediation.

**a. Methods for Discovery: Level of Care Assurance/Sub-assurances**

*The state demonstrates that it implements the processes and instrument(s) specified in its approved waiver for evaluating/reevaluating an applicant's/waiver participant's level of care consistent with level of care provided in a hospital, NF or ICF/IID.*

**i. Sub-Assurances:**

- a. Sub-assurance: An evaluation for LOC is provided to all applicants for whom there is reasonable indication that services may be needed in the future.**

**Performance Measures**

For each performance measure the State will use to assess compliance with the statutory assurance (or sub-assurance), complete the following. Where possible, include numerator/denominator.

For each performance measure, provide information on the aggregated data that will enable the State to analyze and assess progress toward the performance measure. In this section provide information on the method by which each source of data is analyzed statistically/deductively or inductively, how themes are identified or conclusions drawn, and how recommendations are formulated, where appropriate.

**Performance Measure:**

**Percent of initial applications with documentation that an assessment was submitted and reviewed for a level of care determination. N = Number of applications received that were submitted and reviewed for a level of care assessment D = Number of applications received**

**Data Source** (Select one):

**Record reviews, on-site**

If 'Other' is selected, specify:

<b>Responsible Party for data collection/generation</b> (check each that applies):	<b>Frequency of data collection/generation</b> (check each that applies):	<b>Sampling Approach</b> (check each that applies):
<input type="checkbox"/> State Medicaid Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100% Review
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operating Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 100% Review
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-State Entity	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Sample Confidence Interval = <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> Specify:  <input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Annually</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Stratified</b> Describe Group:  <input type="text"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Continuously and Ongoing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> Specify:  <input type="text"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> Specify:  <input type="text"/>	

**Data Aggregation and Analysis:**

<b>Responsible Party for data aggregation and analysis</b> <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<b>Frequency of data aggregation and analysis</b> <i>(check each that applies):</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>State Medicaid Agency</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Weekly</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Operating Agency</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Monthly</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sub-State Entity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Quarterly</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> Specify:  <input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Annually</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Continuously and Ongoing</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> Specify:  <input type="text"/>

**b. Sub-assurance:** *The levels of care of enrolled participants are reevaluated at least annually or as specified in the approved waiver.*

**Performance Measures**

*For each performance measure the State will use to assess compliance with the statutory assurance (or*

*sub-assurance), complete the following. Where possible, include numerator/denominator.*

*For each performance measure, provide information on the aggregated data that will enable the State to analyze and assess progress toward the performance measure. In this section provide information on the method by which each source of data is analyzed statistically/deductively or inductively, how themes are identified or conclusions drawn, and how recommendations are formulated, where appropriate.*

**c. Sub-assurance: The processes and instruments described in the approved waiver are applied appropriately and according to the approved description to determine participant level of care.**

**Performance Measures**

*For each performance measure the State will use to assess compliance with the statutory assurance (or sub-assurance), complete the following. Where possible, include numerator/denominator.*

*For each performance measure, provide information on the aggregated data that will enable the State to analyze and assess progress toward the performance measure. In this section provide information on the method by which each source of data is analyzed statistically/deductively or inductively, how themes are identified or conclusions drawn, and how recommendations are formulated, where appropriate.*

**Performance Measure:**

**Number of participants whose eligibility was determined using the appropriate processes and instruments according to the approved description to determine participant level of care. N = Number of participants whose eligibility was determination using the appropriate processes and instruments D = All participants records reviewed who had an eligibility determination**

**Data Source** (Select one):

**Record reviews, off-site**

If 'Other' is selected, specify:

<b>Responsible Party for data collection/generation</b> <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<b>Frequency of data collection/generation</b> <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<b>Sampling Approach</b> <i>(check each that applies):</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> State Medicaid Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% Review
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operating Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 100% Review
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-State Entity	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Sample Confidence Interval = <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">95% Confidence Level Margin of error = +/-5%</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Stratified

Specify:  <input type="text"/>		Describe Group:  <input type="text"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Continuously and Ongoing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> Specify:  <input type="text"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> Specify:  <input type="text"/>	

**Data Aggregation and Analysis:**

Responsible Party for data aggregation and analysis <i>(check each that applies):</i>	Frequency of data aggregation and analysis <i>(check each that applies):</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> State Medicaid Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operating Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-State Entity	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> Specify:  <input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Annually</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Continuously and Ongoing</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> Specify:  <input type="text"/>

ii. If applicable, in the textbox below provide any necessary additional information on the strategies employed by the State to discover/identify problems/issues within the waiver program, including frequency and parties responsible.

The CARE assessment as specified in the waiver is the only assessment tool used to determine LOC. To determine LOC, case managers and Care Consultants use CARE which is a standardized assessment tool based on the MDS. QA staff and supervisors/managers monitor for appropriate application of the CARE instrument and processes to meet sub-assurance c: (The processes and instruments described in the approved waiver are applied appropriately and according to the approved description to determine participant level of care).

Supervisors/managers annually monitor worker records to ensure LOC accuracy and that a LOC is determined annually or at significant change. For new staff, supervisors review the first five assessments. After the first five assessments, a minimum of 50% of LOCs are reviewed for the next three months of employment. After three months, additional reviews are completed at the supervisor's discretion based upon performance. Errors in assessment that can lead to an inaccurate LOC determination are corrected. AL TSA QA staff monitor LOC using a statistically valid sample of records statewide on an 12 month review cycle.

Monitoring activities and data provide evidence of use of the CARE application. LOC determinations that are not correctly determined are corrected and correction is verified at second review. Training to address use of the CARE application is developed based on the data: individual, unit, regional or statewide.

CARE enforces rules of eligibility. An algorithm in CARE determines LOC based on information gathered from the client/representative and entered in to the assessment by the case manager or Care Consultant. A LOC determination is completed on all applicants for whom there is reasonable indication that services may be needed in the future. If the participant is not New Freedom eligible, the option is not available for the participant/case manager to select/choose and will not print on the service summary (plan of care).

-An Intake is completed at the state agency (HCS) within two working days of receiving the request/referral for services referrals are entered within one working day for applicants discharging from the hospital.

- The case is assigned to a social service specialist (the primary case manager) within one working day of the intake date

- A face-to-face contact is made within two working days of receipt of the referral for applicants coming home from the hospital.

- The initial assessment must be completed and services authorized (if eligible) within 45 days of the intake date. Annual and significant change assessments must be completed within 45 days of the date of assignment.

**b. Methods for Remediation/Fixing Individual Problems**

- i. Describe the States method for addressing individual problems as they are discovered. Include information regarding responsible parties and GENERAL methods for problem correction. In addition, provide information on the methods used by the state to document these items.

CARE, QA and payment reports are reviewed and corrective action taken on an on-going basis by supervisors and field managers. Care Consultants are required to take action within 30 days to address all inappropriate LOC determinations identified during the supervisory and QA monitoring, by completing a CARE assessment. The supervisor or QA staff verify that all corrections are made. CARE management reports include data elements such as: intake date, first assigned date, primary case manager, date assessment created, date moved from pending to current (make payment), setting and transfer dates.

Quality assurance proficiency and follow-up reports document prompt assessment and eligibility determinations, accuracy, and corrective action. QA roll up reports are reviewed at all levels of the system: case managers and Care Consultants- individual proficiency reports; supervisors - unit reports; HCS Regional Administrators and AAA Directors - regional reports; and ALTSA HQ - reviews/analyzes regional and statewide aggregate data.

Proficiency Improvement Plans (PIPs) are required for areas where required proficiency levels are not achieved or if improvement is not evident based upon previous corrective actions. PIPs are evaluated and individualized prior to approval to ensure that plan will effectively address areas that need improvement. Training elements of PIPs are coordinated through ALTSA and ALTSA staff are made available to provide training and technical support.

Each Region/AAA develops an annual training plan that outlines how mandatory and optional training will occur for new and experienced staff (employed one year or longer). This document is revised annually at the regional/PSA level and may be reviewed by the QAS during the HCA/AAA review cycle.

Identified statewide trends are forwarded to the ALTSA Program managers and Chronic Care, Well Being and Performance Improvement Unit for training revision and development.

**ii. Remediation Data Aggregation**

**Remediation-related Data Aggregation and Analysis (including trend identification)**

Responsible Party <i>(check each that applies):</i>	Frequency of data aggregation and analysis <i>(check each that applies):</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> State Medicaid Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operating Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-State Entity	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: <input type="text" value="Area Agency on Aging"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annually
	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuously and Ongoing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: <input type="text"/>

**c. Timelines**

When the State does not have all elements of the Quality Improvement Strategy in place, provide timelines to design methods for discovery and remediation related to the assurance of Level of Care that are currently non-operational.

No

Yes

Please provide a detailed strategy for assuring Level of Care, the specific timeline for implementing identified strategies, and the parties responsible for its operation.



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## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-7: Freedom of Choice

**Freedom of Choice.** As provided in 42 CFR §441.302(d), when an individual is determined to be likely to require a level of care for this waiver, the individual or his or her legal representative is:

- i. informed of any feasible alternatives under the waiver; and
- ii. given the choice of either institutional or home and community-based services.

**a. Procedures.** Specify the state's procedures for informing eligible individuals (or their legal representatives) of the feasible alternatives available under the waiver and allowing these individuals to choose either institutional or waiver services. Identify the form(s) that are employed to document freedom of choice. The form or forms are available to CMS upon request through the Medicaid agency or the operating agency (if applicable).

The Department uses a form called Acknowledgement of Services (DSHS 14-225) to document the applicant/participant's freedom to choose between institutional and home and community-based services. The DSHS 14-225 is explained to the individual by the Care Consultant or social service specialist and a signature is obtained stating that the individual understands they have a choice in the type of services received, where the service is provided as well as the right to a fair hearing. The individual signs this form to designate the service choice.

Fair Hearing information is contained on the DSHS 14-225, Acknowledgement of Services form. Rights to a fair hearing are explained to all clients during the Medicaid application process and again during the assessment process.

The participant receives a signed copy of the DSHS 14-225 and a copy of the form is maintained in the applicant/participant's case record.

**b. Maintenance of Forms.** Per 45 CFR §92.42, written copies or electronically retrievable facsimiles of Freedom of Choice forms are maintained for a minimum of three years. Specify the locations where copies of these forms are maintained.

Electronically retrievable copies of forms are maintained for a minimum of three years in the client record at the state level.

## Appendix B: Participant Access and Eligibility

### B-8: Access to Services by Limited English Proficiency Persons

**Access to Services by Limited English Proficient Persons.** Specify the methods that the state uses to provide meaningful access to the waiver by Limited English Proficient persons in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services "Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons" (68 FR 47311 - August 8, 2003):

The following references govern access to services for Limited English Proficient Persons:

Individuals with limited communication access due to disabilities or English proficiency will have access to a variety of services and supports to meet individual service delivery needs and assistance for fair hearing related activities. LEP services and supports include agency or contracted interpreters, bilingual case managers, and translation of written materials.

The following references govern access to services for Limited English Proficient Persons:

-RCW 74.04.025 Bilingual services for non-English speaking applicants and recipients -- Bilingual personnel, when -- Primary language pamphlets and written materials.

-WAC 388-03 Rules and regulations for the certification of DSHS spoken language interpreters and translators.

-WAC 388-271 Limited English proficient services.

-DSHS Administrative Policies

6.12 Adjustment of Workload for Staff who Provide Translation and Interpretation Services Outside of their Workload

7.20 Communication Access for Persons Who are Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing

7.21 Access to Services for Clients who are Limited English Proficient (LEP)

The Department of Social and Health Services and its contractors are required by statute, administrative code and department policy to deliver services that recognize individual and cultural differences. All clients must be given equal access to services, information, and programs whether the department or contracted vendors deliver services. The following are summaries of requirements:

1. Interpreters are used when interpreter services are requested by the client; necessary to determine a client's eligibility for services; necessary for the client to access services.
2. LEP and Sensory Impaired (SI) clients are informed of their right to request an interpreter or auxiliary aide and are offered interpreter services or auxiliary aids at no cost to them and without significant delay. Children under age 18 are not allowed to serve as interpreters. LEP Interpreters and Translators for spoken language must be certified and/or qualified by DSHS and comply with the DSHS code of professional conduct.
3. To assure access and quality, DSHS maintains a statewide translation contract, American Sign Language contract and Interpreter Brokerage contract for Spoken Languages.
4. If the listed contractors cannot meet the need, or there is an emergency, which requires the immediate attention, staff can access the Language Line.
5. Procedures are in place to obtain translation of official publications, forms and records as well as client specific requests for translations.