



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

September 29, 2014

**ALTSA: ALF #2014-013**  
**HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES RULES WEB PAGE**

Dear Assisted Living Facility Administrators and Interested Parties:

A final federal rule, published in January 2014 and effective March 17, 2014, established requirements for home and community-based settings in Medicaid HCBS programs operated under sections 1915(c), 1915(i), and 1915(k) of the Social Security Act. The rule created a more outcome-oriented definition of home and community-based settings, rather than one based solely on a setting's location, geography, or physical characteristics.

These regulatory changes support opportunities to maximize access to the benefits of community living and to receive services in the most integrated setting for HCBS program participants.

The Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALTSA) and the Development Disabilities Administration (DDA) are working together to conduct an assessment of settings where Medicaid funded home and community based services are provided and are preparing a report for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that will include a transition plan for settings that are determined to have institutional characteristics.

ALTSA and DDA are developing the transition plan with public, Tribal and stakeholder input and will include actions the state will take to address identified issues. Those steps may include revised contractual requirements, standardized residential admission agreements, changes to licensing survey elements and potential changes to WAC.

A new web page has been established so that staff and other stakeholders may learn about the federal changes. Refer to this page to learn about the new rules and Washington State's transition plan. <http://www.altsa.dshs.wa.gov/stakeholders/hcbs/>

If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Childress, LTC Policy Program Manager at (360) 725-2591 or by email [childjk@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:childjk@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Carl I. Walters II., Director  
Residential Care Services

*"Transforming Lives"*