



PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS) WAIVER ACTIONS

Current Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Policy for Public Input on Home and Community Based Waivers (HCBS Waiver Application – Version 3.5, Instructions Manual):

CMS encourages states to obtain public input during the development of a waiver (or a renewal or a major waiver amendment). Public input may take many forms (e.g. seeking comments about a draft, conducting focus groups with affected parties (waiver participants, families, providers and other stakeholders) about the scope and nature of services offered, establishing a standing advisory group or committee to assist with development of the waiver). While states are not required to obtain public input over and above the mandatory consultation with the Medicaid Advisory Committee, soliciting the views of affected parties is a positive practice that contributes to the development of effective waivers.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) proposes the following as part of its public input policy for HCBS Waiver actions:

Public Meetings

SCDHHS will use public meeting for all waiver renewals and for major, substantive changes to waivers.

LISTSERV

SCDHHS will maintain an electronic list of interested consumers, families, providers, advocacy organizations and other stakeholders who would like to be notified of renewals and amendments to existing waivers and of the development of new waivers. This LISTSERV will be used for public notification of all waiver actions. For major, substantive changes, there will be a public comment period. To be added to the LISTSERV, please contact Teeshla Curtis at 803-898-2502 or curtist@scdhhs.gov.

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)

SCDHHS's MCAC will be advised of all major, substantive waiver amendments for input.

Tribal Notification

The State seeks advice on an ongoing basis from the Federally-recognized Catawba Indian Nation on matters related to Medicaid and CHIP programs. Official notification shall be provided through a Catawba Indian Nation representative. Additionally, SCDHHS conducts a monthly call with tribal representatives.

SCDHHS Website

All major waiver documents will be posted to the SCDHHS website. The website will also be utilized to inform the public of waiver actions.

Other Guidelines

- There may be time constraints needed for implementation of an action. In such cases, this may accelerate the input process.
- Definitions:

Technical Changes: Technical changes are actions that do not directly impact major policy affecting waiver participants. Examples: language clarity, administrative matters, modifications to the financial section of a waiver (Appendix J) which do not impact cost effectiveness, typographical corrections, etc.

Major/Substantive Changes: Major/substantive changes are actions that directly impact waiver participants. Examples: reductions in the number of persons served; reductions to the number of services offered; significant changes to the way a service is provided or who can receive a service; or significant rate changes.

Effective date: _____