§ 441.300 Basis and purpose.

Section 1915(c) of the Act permits States to offer, under a waiver of statutory requirements, an array of home and community-based services that an individual needs to avoid institutionalization. Those services are defined in §440.180 of this subchapter. This subpart describes what the Medicaid agency must do to obtain a waiver.

§ 441.301 Contents of request for a waiver.

(a) A request for a waiver under this section must consist of the following:

(1) The assurances required by §441.302 and the supporting documentation required by §441.303.

(2) When applicable, requests for waivers of the requirements of section 1902(a)(1), section 1902(a)(10)(B), or section 1902(a)(10)(C)(i)(III) of the Act, which concern respectively, statewide application of Medicaid, comparability of services, and income and resource rules applicable to medically needy individuals living in the community.

(3) A statement explaining whether the agency will refuse to offer home or community-based services to any recipient if the agency can reasonably expect that the cost of the services would exceed the cost of an equivalent level of care provided in—

(i) A hospital (as defined in §440.10 of this chapter);

(ii) A NF (as defined in section 1919(a) of the Act); or

(iii) An ICF/MR (as defined in §440.150 of this chapter);

(2) Describe the qualifications of the individual or individuals who will be responsible for developing the individual plan of care;

(3) Describe the group or groups of individuals to whom the services will be offered;

(4) Describe the services to be furnished so that each service is separately defined. Multiple services that are generally considered to be separate services may not be consolidated under a single definition. Commonly accepted terms must be used to describe the service and definitions may not be open ended in scope. CMS will, however, allow combined service definitions (bundling) when this will permit more efficient delivery of services and not compromise either a recipient’s access to or free choice of providers.

(5) Provide that the documentation requirements regarding individual evaluation, specified in §441.303(c), will be met; and

(6) Be limited to one of the following target groups or any subgroup thereof that the State may define:

(i) Aged or disabled, or both.

(ii) Mentally retarded or developmentally disabled, or both.

(iii) Mentally ill.

§ 441.302 State assurances.

Unless the Medicaid agency provides the following satisfactory assurances to CMS, CMS will not grant a waiver under this subpart and may terminate a waiver already granted:

(a) Health and Welfare—Assurance that necessary safeguards have been taken to protect the health and welfare
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of the recipients of the services. Those safeguards must include—

(1) Adequate standards for all types of providers that provide services under the waiver;

(2) Assurance that the standards of any State licensure or certification requirements are met for services or for individuals furnishing services that are provided under the waiver; and

(3) Assurance that all facilities covered by section 1616(e) of the Act, in which home and community-based services will be provided, are in compliance with applicable State standards that meet the requirements of 45 CFR Part 1397 for board and care facilities.

(b) Financial accountability—The agency will assure financial accountability for funds expended for home and community-based services, provide for an independent audit of its waiver program (except as CMS may otherwise specify for particular waivers), and it will maintain and make available to HHS, the Comptroller General, or other designees, appropriate financial records documenting the cost of services provided under the waiver, including reports of any independent audits conducted.

(c) Evaluation of need. Assurance that the agency will provide for the following:

(1) Initial evaluation. An evaluation of the need for the level of care provided in a hospital, a NF, or an ICF/MR when there is a reasonable indication that a recipient might need the services in the near future (that is, a month or less) unless he or she receives home or community-based services. For purposes of this section, “evaluation” means a review of an individual recipient’s condition to determine—

(i) If the recipient requires the level of care provided in a hospital as defined in § 440.10 of this subchapter, a NF as defined in section 1919(a) of the Act, or an ICF/MR as defined by § 440.150 of this subchapter; and

(ii) That the recipient, but for the provision of waiver services, would otherwise be institutionalized in such a facility.

(2) Periodic reevaluations. Reevaluations, at least annually, of each recipient receiving home or community-based services to determine if the recipient continues to need the level of care provided and would, but for the provision of waiver services, otherwise be institutionalized in one of the following institutions:

(i) A hospital;

(ii) A NF; or

(iii) An ICF/MR.

(d) Alternatives—Assurance that when a recipient is determined to be likely to require the level of care provided in a hospital, NF, or ICF/MR, the recipient or his or her legal representative will be—

(1) Informed of any feasible alternatives available under the waiver; and

(2) Given the choice of either institutional or home and community-based services.

(e) Average per capita expenditures. Assurance that the average per capita fiscal year expenditures under the waiver will not exceed 100 percent of the average per capita expenditures that would have been made in the fiscal year for the level of care provided in a hospital, NF, or ICF/MR under the State plan had the waiver not been granted.

(1) These expenditures must be reasonably estimated and documented by the agency.

(2) The estimate must be on an annual basis and must cover each year of the waiver period.

(f) Actual total expenditures. Assurance that the agency’s actual total expenditures for home and community-based and other Medicaid services provided to recipients under the waiver will not, in any year of the waiver period, exceed 100 percent of the amount that would be incurred by the State’s Medicaid program for these individuals, absent the waiver, in—

(1) A hospital;

(2) A NF; or

(3) An ICF/MR.

(g) Institutionalization absent waiver. Assurance that, absent the waiver, recipients in the waiver would receive the appropriate type of Medicaid-funded institutional care (hospital, NF, or ICF/MR) that they require.

(h) Reporting. Assurance that annually, the agency will provide CMS with information on the waiver’s impact. The information must be consistent
with a data collection plan designed by CMS and must address the waiver’s impact on—
(1) The type, amount, and cost of services provided under the State plan; and
(2) The health and welfare of recipients.
(i) Habilitation services. Assurance that prevocational, educational, or supported employment services, or a combination of these services, if provided as habilitation services under the waiver, are—
(1) Not otherwise available to the individual through a local educational agency under section 602 (16) and (17) of the Education of the Handicapped Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 (16 and 17)) or as services under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 730); and
(2) Furnished as part of expanded habilitation services, if the State has requested and received CMS’s approval under a waiver or an amendment to a waiver.
(j) Day treatment or partial hospitalization, psychosocial rehabilitation services, and clinic services for individuals with chronic mental illness. Assurance that FFP will not be claimed in expenditures for waiver services including, but not limited to, day treatment or partial hospitalization, psychosocial rehabilitation services, and clinic services provided as home and community-based services to individuals with chronic mental illnesses if these individuals, in the absence of a waiver, would be placed in an IMD and are—
(1) Age 22 to 64;
(2) Age 65 and older and the State has not included the optional Medicaid benefit cited in §440.140; or
(3) Age 21 and under and the State has not included the optional Medicaid benefit cited in §440.160.
§441.303 Supporting documentation required.
The agency must furnish CMS with sufficient information to support the assurances required by §441.302. Except as CMS may otherwise specify for particular waivers, the information must consist of the following:
(a) A description of the safeguards necessary to protect the health and welfare of recipients. This information must include a copy of the standards established by the State for facilities that are covered by section 1616(e) of the Act.
(b) A description of the records and information that will be maintained to support financial accountability.
(c) A description of the agency’s plan for the evaluation and reevaluation of recipients, including—
(1) A description of who will make these evaluations and how they will be made;
(2) A copy of the evaluation form to be used; and if it differs from the form used in placing recipients in hospitals, NFs, or ICFs/MR, a description of how and why it differs and an assurance that the outcome of the new evaluation form is reliable, valid, and fully comparable to the form used for hospital, NF, or ICF/MR placement;
(3) The agency’s procedure to ensure the maintenance of written documentation on all evaluations and reevaluations; and
(4) The agency’s procedure to ensure reevaluations of need at regular intervals.
(d) A description of the agency’s plan for informing eligible recipients of the feasible alternatives available under the waiver and allowing recipients to choose either institutional services or home and community-based services.
(e) An explanation of how the agency will apply the applicable provisions regarding the post-eligibility treatment of income and resources of those individuals receiving home and community-based services who are eligible under a special income level (included in §435.217 of this chapter).
(f) An explanation with supporting documentation satisfactory to CMS of how the agency estimated the average per capita expenditures for services. The estimates are to be based on the following equation: