

A wide-angle photograph of a South Dakota landscape featuring prominent, layered rock buttes under a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a flat, arid plain with sparse vegetation.

South Dakota Department of Human Services

A solid teal-colored horizontal banner that spans the width of the slide, serving as a background for the meeting title.

CHOICES Waiver Amendment Town Hall Meeting

A close-up photograph of a rugged, light-colored rock cliff face. The bottom of the image is filled with a dense forest of green evergreen trees.

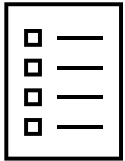
January 6, 2025

Welcome & Introductions

We are glad you are here. We are looking forward to sharing information and answering as many questions as we can.



- Meet the DHS team and their partners at A&M
- Meeting you -- If you are comfortable, please write your first name, town, and role in the chat
 - Example: Kate, Sioux Falls, Mom



- Today we will **share updates on the CHOICES Waiver.**
- We want to hear **your feedback** and **answer your questions**



- **Our goal** is to provide high quality and reliable services that meet the assessed needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Sign-Up for DDD Emails

- If you're not receiving emails from DDD, sign up now by scanning the QR code to the right!
- You can also sign up for DDD emails using this link: <https://state.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=3a4bb110bc1a8b2594346b1cc&id=17ff84c9a8>



What is the CHOICES Waiver?

Waiver Basics

Waivers are special permission Medicaid gives to states that allow people with significant health needs to get services and supports in their own homes or in a community setting. The goal is to keep people out of living in a state institution.



A Waiver gives states more flexibility around the services they provide and how to provide them.

HCBS Waiver Basics

An HCBS Waiver provides Medicaid funding for home and community-based services (HCBS). These services are provided in a person's or family's home or community. A person must be eligible for Medicaid and apply for an HCBS Waiver program to have access to these services.



An HCBS Waiver helps people use services in their homes and communities.

What is the CHOICES Waiver?

The CHOICES waiver is an HCBS Waiver program that provides services to people with developmental disabilities in South Dakota. The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) oversees this waiver.

CHOICES Waiver:

- For people with developmental disabilities across the lifespan.
- Participants must meet eligibility requirements (financial and medical)
- Traditional / not self-directed
- Services include:
 - Case Management
 - Residential Habilitation
 - Shared Living Residential Habilitation
 - Individual Supported Employment
 - Group Supported Employment
 - Small Group Vocational Support
 - Career Exploration
 - Day Habilitation – Facility-based or Community-based
 - Medical Equipment and Drugs
 - Assistive Technology



DDD has helpful videos for families and self-advocates that say more about the CHOICES waiver:

<https://dhs.sd.gov/en/division-developmental-disabilities/family-and-self-advocate-training-and-resources>.

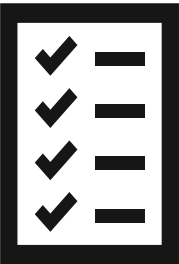
What is a Waiver Amendment? What is in the CHOICES
Waiver Amendment?

What is an HCBS Waiver Amendment?

An HCBS Waiver is flexible. Once an initial, or base application is approved it can be amended or changed.



A state submits an Initial HCBS Waiver Application to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Once it is reviewed by CMS, it is approved for 3 years.



If there are no changes to this initial waiver, a Waiver Renewal is approved by CMS for 5 years.

This cycle continues until a state decides to:

- Terminate the waiver (CMS may do this too); or
- Amend parts of the waiver

At any time, states may want to amend a waiver to:

- Adjust the approved program;
- Add new service types;
- Adapt to new federal regulations;
- Start new service delivery models (traditional / self-direction);
- Expand eligibility; or
- Adjust funding / service rates



State agencies, people participating in waivers, their families, and the service provider community can advocate for changes to the base waiver.

What is in the CHOICES Waiver Amendment?

The amendment will change how CHOICES vendors qualify to provide services.

What's changing in the waiver?

- The amendment changes the rules for vendors that can provide CHOICES services.
- CHOICES vendors may be able to provide out-of-state services* if they are:
 1. An approved provider in the state(s) where they are providing services
 2. In good standing in the state(s) where they are providing services

** Out-of-state services are services provided to CHOICES participants in states other than South Dakota.*

What does this mean?

- This change will make it easier for people to access and use out-of-state care, if they choose.
- With this change, providers can qualify to offer CHOICES services in other states where they can show that they are approved providers in good standing.
- More providers should be able to offer out-of-state CHOICES services to South Dakotans who want or need them.

CHOICES Waiver Amendment Timeline

CHOICES Waiver Amendment Steps

The process to amend a waiver requires multiple steps. We are now in the “Public Comment” phase.

Steps to Amend the CHOICES Waiver:

- Key**
- ✓ Completed
 - In progress
 - Not yet started



- ✓ Alert DSS to Proposed CHOICES Amendment
- ✓ Tell stakeholders about plans for a CHOICES amendment
- ✓ Update the CHOICES waiver and submit the waiver to South Dakota Medicaid for approval.
- Give public notice and allow 30 days for public comment
- Incorporate public comments into the new Waiver Amendment
- Submit the amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Get CMS approval for waiver and funding

Waiver Amendment Public Comment Process

Key
✓ Completed
• In progress
• Not yet started

The public has an opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions about the new CHOICES Waiver Amendment.

- When you amend a waiver, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires public comment.
 - ✓ First, the state must publish notice and the amendment. The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) published the amendment and notice on December 10th, 2024.
 - Next, there is at least a 30-day comment period. **The public comment period is open from December 10th, 2024 to January 10th, 2025.**
 - Finally, the state must summarize and respond to comments in the waiver
- Once that is done, the state can submit the amendment to CMS for review.

We want to hear from you!



In addition to the CMS requirements, DDD is:

- ✓ Sharing information about the waiver amendment by email and on our website
- Hosting townhall meetings to share information about the changes and take public comment live

