

COVID-19 Exemptions for I/DD HCBS Waivers

March 19, 2020

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) is to be commended for taking steps to mitigate the risk to individuals and service providers by seeking exemptions to current rules for the four Home and Community-Based Waivers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Read [the OCDD Memo here](#).

The exemptions below apply to the New Opportunities (NOW), Children's Choice, Supports and Residential Options (ROW) waivers:

- Allowing for sharing as needed
- Allowing worker to live in the recipient's home to provide Individual and Family Support (IFS) services
- Allow recipient to temporarily reside with worker if necessary
- Allowing payment to legally responsible relative for IFS in-home services on a temporary basis
- Allowing current assessments (90Ls) to remain in place until the resolution of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Allowing telehealth such as FaceTime and Skype for the 10-day visit requirement for initial participants, 30-day timeline for Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) and LA Plus Assessments, quarterly support coordination visit and allow for FaceTime or Skype for the waiver certification by the OCDD office or its designee
- Allowing Support Coordinators and providers to substitute face-to-face contacts with telehealth calls, FaceTime or Skype so as not to expose participants who are medically fragile/elderly or have medically fragile/elderly caregivers
- Allow revisions without signatures
- Auto revising plans, converting day program hours to IFS without paper revisions
- Allowing Direct Support Workers (DSWs) to work beyond the 16 hours when necessary
- Allowing legally responsible relatives to temporarily work as Companion Care workers
- Extensions of the yearly Comprehensive Plan of Care (CPOC) when necessary

Stressed? The [Office of Behavioral Health is offering free counseling services with the Keep Calm Through COVID hotline](#) at 1-866-310-7977. Call any time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Council will continue to track the efforts being made to combat COVID-19 and advocate for the unique needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Information and updates relevant to the disability population will be shared on our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

Contact Us

LaDDC News is the electronic newsletter for the LA Developmental Disabilities Council. If there are any questions about the information above, contact the Council by replying to this email, or calling the toll free number listed below:

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