

Home & Community-Based Waiver Services Rule Changes: Call to Action!



There are new rules from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS is the federal agency that provides funds for Home and Community-Based Waiver Services (including Family Care, IRIS and Legacy Waiver services) for people with disabilities. These rules will help more people with disabilities be included in their communities. CMS has said they want people with disabilities to have the *benefits of integration and community living*.

In order to meet the new rules, Home & Community-Based Waiver services must:

- ▶ Be **typical** of where people without disabilities live and work (houses, condos, and apartments in neighborhoods).
- ▶ Provide the same **access to community** resources given to people without disabilities.
- ▶ Allow people **control over their spending money** and other personal resources.
- ▶ Support people to be in **community employment** alongside people without disabilities and earn minimum wage or higher.

Characteristics that will NOT meet the new rules:

- ▶ Supports cannot be provided in a building that is part of a hospital, nursing home, or institution.
- ▶ Supports cannot be at a housing complex that is only for people with specific disabilities and separate from the larger community.
- ▶ Further guidance will be given on requirements for day and workplace settings, but CMS has said that the requirement to be in the general community and with others who do not have disabilities **does** apply to employment and day services, so **segregated work and day support services will need to change**.

To help make this happen, everyone who gets Home & Community-Based Waiver services will need to have a *Person-Centered Plan* that they help create.

The state of Wisconsin must develop a plan by the end of July 2014 about how all services and supports will be changed to meet the new rules within 5 years. There will be a 30-day public comment period on the plan **during August 2014** and your input is needed! There is a **webinar** to help you learn more about the changes and a **toolkit** you can use to put together information to share with DHS.

Don't miss this chance to share your ideas and personal story to make the future for people with disabilities better!

For more information visit www.wiemploymentfirst.com/hcbs-settings-rule