

Dear Community Protection Waiver Clients,

In 2026, Governor Ferguson signed a bill that removes a state law about the Community Protection program. You might ask what this means and how it will affect the services you receive. There are a few things that you should know.

When is the Community Protection program ending?

The state law will end on December 31, 2026. You will continue to get services. If you are in the Community Protection program, you are also on the Community Protection waiver. The CP waiver will continue until the last person transitions onto another DDA waiver or service. This transition will not happen all at once.

When is the Community Protection waiver ending?

DDA is taking steps to help everyone's transitions go smoothly and safely. The CP waiver is set for renewal in September 2027. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services must approve our request to remove the CP waiver. The earliest that can happen is September 2027. We will make sure that all the services and system updates are ready before someone transitions off the CP waiver.

Can I graduate?

Any person who meets their goals, can still graduate from the program at any time during this process.

What happens after the law ends?

Once the law is removed, you will continue to:

- Receive current services.
- Work with the same case manager.
- Have quarterly meetings to discuss your services and support.
- Have access to graduate after Jan. 1, 2027, if you meet the goals you develop with your team.

What if I don't graduate?

If you aren't ready to graduate when you transition to another waiver, then as part of the process, your case manager will talk to you about getting an updated evaluation to determine the types of supports needed. They will work with you and your team to identify the best evaluator suited to your needs. This might be through:

- A risk assessment.
- A mental health professional.
- Another service provider through your health plan.

The goal of the evaluation is to get recommendations for services and support to help you stay safe in your community.

What happens when I get another waiver?

After you get onto another DDA waiver, you will still have a specialized case manager. You also still have an opportunity to meet with your whole support team and discuss your services and goals. Your level of support and services will be based on your DDA assessment. This will be determined by you, your case manager and anyone else who supports you in your decision making including legal guardians, family or friends of your choosing.

What are we doing now to prepare for your transition?

There are six work groups to put everything in place to support the transition. These work groups are focused on:

- Policy and Rule changes.
- Waiver updates.
- Training support.
- Technology updates.
- Contract changes.
- Changes to how behavior support plans are written.

These changes will occur at different times between now and when the last person leaves the CP waiver.

What happens now?

Future messages will focus on each of these workgroups and when changes happen. It is important that our systems and policies are updated to reflect any needed changes. It is also important that we have the supports necessary for those in the program.

The goal is a successful transition to a much more person-centered service delivery system.

Where can you get more information?

This first message is to get you caught up with the start of this project. The next message will include more information about workgroups including a timeline. You can also reach out to your case manager with questions and suggestions for things you would like to hear about.