

Administration for Community Living

Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD)

May 10, 2023

Training and Technical Assistance Institute ACL/OIDD Updates



Today's Meeting Flow

- Public Health Emergency Unwinding
- AoD Special Initiatives - CDC COVID-19 and Public Health Workforce
- AoD Commissioner – Updates and Q & A
- FY 2022 PPR Review – Accomplishments and Data Review
- OIDD Announcements and Updates
- Let's Engage - Open Forum for Q&A or Field Announcements
- Wrap Up and Closing Comments

Public Health Emergency Unwinding

Vicki Gottlich, Center Director, Center for Policy and Evaluation, ACL



COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

What is the Public Health Emergency (PHE)?

- Declared by Sec. of HHS in 2020,
- Allows for state and provider flexibilities in Medicare and Medicaid,
- Ends May 11th, 2023,
- Affects both Medicaid benefits and enrollment/eligibility.

What is “unwinding?”

- The process by which states and providers return to pre-pandemic operations,
- Varying timeframe for sunset of different provisions,
- Both Medicaid benefits and enrollment/eligibility implicated.

Medicaid enrollment unwinding

Families First Coronavirus Act (March 2020) required states to keep people continuously enrolled in Medicaid (even if eligibility changed)

Ended March 31, 2023

States have 14 months to complete redeterminations for all current Medicaid enrollees

Potential for gaps in coverage and improper disenrollment.

Continuous Enrollment: What You Can Do

Remind populations you work with to update contact with Medicaid agency.



All mailed forms should be filled out any forms on time.



All materials must be provided in accessible formats.

- [Find your Medicaid agency](#)
- [CMS unwinding website](#) (technical guidance documents)
- [CMS communications toolkit](#) (user friendly)
- [ACL blog: Unwinding changes to eligibility and enrollment](#)

Medicaid Benefit Changes Under PHE

- Changes to Medicaid HCBS including (among others):
 - Expanded services like home-delivered meals,
 - Expanded opportunities for family caregiving, and
 - Direct care worker rate increases and retention payments.
- Some flexibilities will end with the end of the PHE (May 11th), some six months after the end of the PHE (November 11th, 2023), some at time specified by state.

Benefit Changes Spotlight: Family Caregivers

- **Family caregiver programs are critical. They:**
 - Expand the range of people who can provide supports
 - Compensates family members who may otherwise have to be in workforce and taking time off to do it
 - Are an effective strategy to help address workforce crisis
 - Provide career growth opportunities for family members who get training
- **States had option prior to PHE for 1915(c). Many expanded during PHE (particularly to non I/DD populations) and CMS approved quickly**
 - States now seeking to keep expansions

Benefit Flexibilities: What you can do

- Many flexibilities can be made permanent via waiver or state plan amendment
 - CMS has provided information on making [family caregiver](#) and [other changes](#) permanent
- Work with state to incorporate beneficial changes into Medicaid program
- Educate beneficiaries around potential benefit changes

Resources

- Find your Medicaid agency → <https://www.medicaid.gov/about-us/beneficiary-resources/index.html#statemenu>
- CMS unwinding website (technical guidance documents) → <https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/unwinding-and-returning-regular-operations-after-covid-19/index.html>
- CMS communications toolkit (user friendly) → <https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/downloads/unwinding-comms-toolkit.pdf>
- ACL blog: Unwinding changes to eligibility and enrollment → <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/acl-blog/public-health-emergency-unwinding-changes-medicaid-enrollment-and>

Resources cont'd

- End Of Pandemic-Era Flexibilities In Medicaid HCBS (NASDDDS) → <https://www.nasddds.org/the-end-of-pandemic-era-flexibilities-in-medicaid-home-and-community-based-services-what-agency-leaders-need-to-know/>
- CMS All State Medicaid and CHIP Call on Extending Family Caregiver payments → <https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/downloads/covid19allstatecall02212023.pdf>
- CMS All State Medicaid and CHIP Call on COVID-19 PHE Flexibilities → <https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/downloads/covid19allstatecall02282023.pdf>

Questions??

AoD Special Initiatives

CDC COVID-19 and Public Health Workforce

Sara Newell-Perez, DD Council Program Lead, OIDD

Jack Brandt, Program Specialist, OIDD

David Jones, Director, OIDD



CDC COVID-19 Funding - Background

- In 2021, ACL through CDC funded **\$4 million to support DD Councils increase vaccine access** for people with disabilities.
- 53 of the 56 DD Councils requested and received funding.
- 27 Councils finished their CDC project period on 9/30/22.
- 26 Councils requested No Cost Extension and will end their CDC project period on 9/30/23.

CDC COVID-19 - Outputs

- **5,692** people unable to independently travel to vaccine site
- **3,220** people assisted with accessible transportation to a vaccine site
- **4,538** people assisted with companionship/person support to receive vaccine
- **1,007** local health departments or other entities assisted with technical assistance for vaccine appointments

CDC COVID-19 Funding - Accomplishments

- Councils utilized **mobile clinics** to increase access to Covid-19 vaccines for people with disabilities.
- Councils **collaborated with the DD Network partners** and Independent Living to develop a comprehensive strategy.
- Councils Implemented **a statewide vaccine hotline** to schedule an in-home vaccine appointment and to answer any questions to provide unbiased information.
- Councils organized, advertised, and **participated in vaccine fairs**. And, they had did **personalized outreach** to individuals with ID/DD and their families.
- Councils **partnered with community based organizations** with vaccine clinics with their existing programs.

CDC COVID-19 Funding – Lessons Learned

- **Internet and/or technology was limited for many people with I/DD** to access information online about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine, particularly in rural areas.
- Grantees were **met with lack of trust**, staunch resistance, and conspiracy theories about the vaccines in some communities.
- **Evaluations conducted** helped show the effectiveness of vaccine education campaigns to influence behavior.
- Advocates reported **vaccine fatigue** due to multiple messages in the community.

Public Health Workforce Funding

- **Program Purpose**

- Recruit, hire, and train public health workers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future public health challenges.

- **Budget Period:** 03-01-2022 through 09-30-2024

- **Reporting Requirements**

- Annually the Councils will report: 1) Number of full-time equivalents (FTEs), 2) Type of public health professional(s) hired, and 3) The activities they are engaged in to advance public health.
- The Excel spreadsheet will be distributed to the Councils by May 15th.
- Councils will report on the period from 3/1/22 through 9/30/23.
- The first interim report will be due on 10/31/23.
- The second and final report will be due 10/31/24.



Administration on Disabilities Commissioner

Updates and Q & A



Jill Jacobs,
Commissioner, Administration on Disabilities

FY 2022 PPR Review

Accomplishments and Data Review

Sara Newell-Perez, DD Council Program Lead, OIDD

Jack Brandt, Program Specialist, OIDD



DD Council Network – PPR Strengths

- **COVID-19:** Councils **proactively responded to meet COVID-19 challenges** in FY22, especially around staff level of the Council. Councils provided stories demonstrating continued **positive impact** for people with I/DD and their families as they navigated new and complex challenges emerging from COVID-19.
- **Systems Change:** Councils are tackling systems change and capacity building in all areas of **housing, education, employment, transportation, recreation, healthcare, and quality assurance.**
- **Supported Decision Making:** Councils are also involved in system change efforts for **Supported Decision Making.**

DD Council Network – PPR Strengths

- **Plain Language:** The network is embracing the **importance of plain language** and dissemination of information in accessible formats (i.e. system change efforts). Councils are providing information to individuals with ID/DD and family members that is:
 - accessible format,
 - educating policymakers,
 - building capacity,
 - Others

Analysis of Goals – Areas of Emphasis

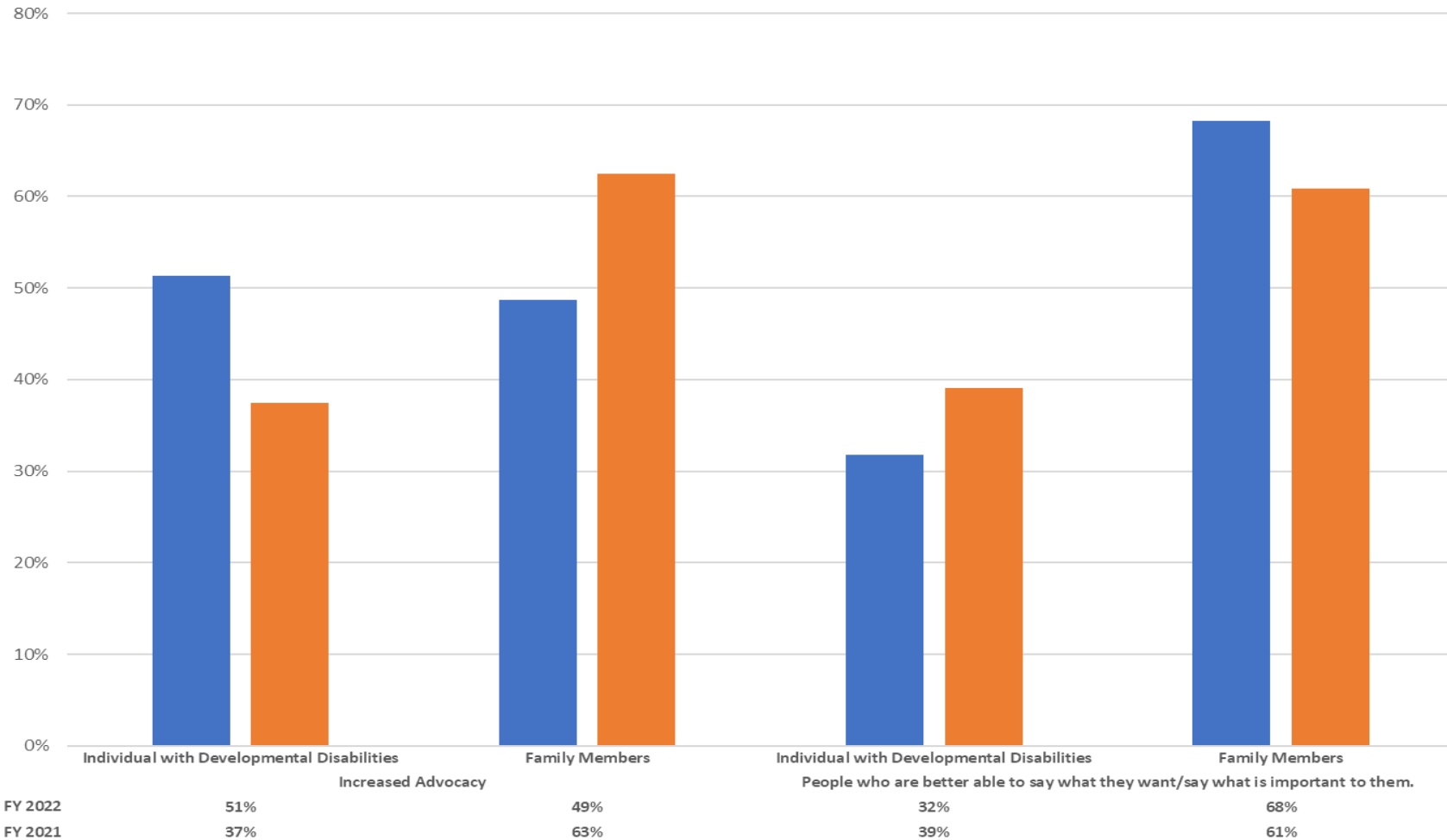
Area of Emphasis	2021	2022
Quality Assurance	133	124
Education	80	79
Childcare	26	14
Health	89	83
Employment	100	84
Housing	56	58
Transportation	56	41
Recreation	49	27
Community Support	150	129

DDC FY 22 PPR - Analysis of Objectives

Strategies	FY 2021	FY 2022
Individual and Family Advocacy	229	191
System Change	208	181
Capacity Building	176	202

DDC FY 2022 PPR

Selected Individual And Family Advocacy Outcomes



DD Council Network

Opportunities for Improvement - PPRs

- **Data:**

- Performance measures were incorrectly input or left blank without an explanation in the narrative.
- Double check your work before submitting.
- Councils reported unreliable survey data results or limited responses

- **Verity Analytics:**

- The objectives from the state plan did not carryover into the PPRs. Please be sure to select the objectives to carry over from the state plan.
- Continue to bring forward any system issues for continued quality improvement

- **Diversity:**

- Expand Council's diversity, inclusion, equity, cultural and linguistic competency
- Efforts include membership appointments, trainings, RFP opportunities, product development, council and sub-grantee activities, etc.

DD Council Network

Opportunities for Improvement

- **Fiscal Information - Section V:**
 - Councils need to provide all of the figures for this section
 - Councils also need to be aware of the obligation periods
- **Some Councils Provided Repetitive Information:**
 - It is important to report on the specific reporting period timeframe
- **Review:**
 - Guidance for Completing the Program Performance Report (itacchelp.org)
 - ITACC webinar on PPR development will be held in the Fall.
 - PPR self-assessment tool

OIDD Announcements and Updates

Sara Newell-Perez, DD Council Program Lead, OIDD

Allison Cruz, DD Program Manager



FY 2022 Awards – No-Cost Extension (NCE)

- **Requesting NCE**

- Councils will be able to request a **NCE for the FY 2022 funds**.
- The NCE needs to be sent to your ACL Program Specialist **by August 25, 2023**.
- The NCE justification will be closely reviewed to determine what significant barriers prevented spending of funds in order for approval to be justified.

Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI) Implementation

- **Background**

- EO 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*
- The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine issued a report *Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation (SOGI)* recommend standard questions across federal programs.
- ACL adopted these questions and included them in the recent PPR clearance.

- **Reporting Requirements**

- The questions will be included in the FY 23 PPRs for AoD programs.
- SOGI data will be collected through an Excel spreadsheet and distributed by May 15th.

- **Guidance**

- ACL will work with a consultant and small workgroup to develop guidance (Councils may opt to use) to assist in data collection.

COVID-19 Testing Project

- **Background**

- The [HRSA COVID-19 Testing Supply Program](#) continues to offer access to free COVID-19 testing supplies, including both at-home self-tests and point-of-care tests for clinical settings.
- The aging and disability networks should continue collaborating with health centers to make these critical resources available to your communities.

- **What does this mean for you?**

- AoD programs can register for and/or continue to request OTC test kits.
- [HPoP Self-Service Provider Sign Up](#)

OIDD Updates – Looking Ahead

- **Upcoming Events**

- JULY 2023 – We look forward to seeing you in Orlando

- **7/24 – New Director’s Orientation**

- **7/25 – Chairperson/Member Leader Training**

- **7/26-7/28 – NACDD Annual Conference**

**Check out other T/TA trainings/events throughout the year: [Events - ITACC \(itacchelp.org\)](https://www.itacchelp.org)

- **2023 Deadlines**

- **State Plan Amendments (both substantive and updates); FFY24 & FFY25 Work Plans** – Due August 15, 2023

- **FY 23 PPR** - Due December 31, 2023

- **Federal Financial Reports** – Review your Notice of Awards for timeline.

- **Change in key personnel** - Send completed form updates to your OIDD Program Specialist

Let's Engage
Open Forum for Q&A or Field
Announcements



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Wrap-up and Closing Comments



Administration for Community Living

Thank you for your participation!

