

1. Request Information

A. The State of **Pennsylvania** requests approval for a Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver under the authority of §1915(c) of the Social Security Act (the Act).

B. **Program Title** (optional – this title will be used to locate this waiver in the finder): **Community HealthChoices (CHC)**

C. **Type of Request:** (the system will automatically populate new, amendment, or renewal)

Requested Approval Period: (For new waivers requesting five year approval periods, the waiver must serve individuals who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.)

<input type="radio"/>	3 years
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	5 years

<input type="checkbox"/>	New to replace waiver Replacing Waiver Number:	
	Migration Waiver – this is an existing approved waiver Provide the information about the original waiver being migrated	
	Base Waiver Number:	PA.0386
	Amendment Number (if applicable):	
	Effective Date: (mm/dd/yy)	

D. **Type of Waiver** (select only one):

<input type="radio"/>	Model Waiver
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Regular Waiver

E. **Proposed Effective Date:** **July 1, 2026**

Approved Effective Date (CMS Use):

F. **Level(s) of Care.** This waiver is requested in order to provide home and community-based waiver services to individuals who, but for the provision of such services, would require the following level(s) of care, the costs of which would be reimbursed under the approved Medicaid State plan (check each that applies):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospital (select applicable level of care)
<input type="radio"/>	Hospital as defined in 42 CFR §440.10

		If applicable, specify whether the State additionally limits the waiver to subcategories of the hospital level of care:
	<input type="radio"/>	Inpatient psychiatric facility for individuals under age 21 as provided in 42 CFR § 440.160
√		Nursing Facility (<i>select applicable level of care</i>)
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Nursing Facility as defined in 42 CFR §440.40 and 42 CFR §440.155 If applicable, specify whether the State additionally limits the waiver to subcategories of the nursing facility level of care:
	<input type="radio"/>	Institution for Mental Disease for persons with mental illnesses aged 65 and older as provided in 42 CFR §440.140
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) (as defined in 42 CFR §440.150) If applicable, specify whether the State additionally limits the waiver to subcategories of the ICF/IID facility level of care:

G. Concurrent Operation with Other Programs. This waiver operates concurrently with another program (or programs) approved under the following authorities

Select one:

<input type="radio"/>	Not applicable	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Applicable	
Check the applicable authority or authorities:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Services furnished under the provisions of §1915(a)(1)(a) of the Act and described in Appendix I	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Waiver(s) authorized under §1915(b) of the Act. <i>Specify the §1915(b) waiver program and indicate whether a §1915(b) waiver application has been submitted or previously approved:</i></p> <p>The Commonwealth operates this §1915(c) waiver application concurrently with a §1915(b) waiver application to implement Community HealthChoices (CHC). The CHC 1915(b) waiver was approved by CMS for the time period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027. CHC is Pennsylvania’s managed long-term services and supports initiative. The 1915(b)/1915(c) concurrent waivers allow the Commonwealth to require Medicaid beneficiaries to receive nursing facility, hospice, home and community-based services (HCBS), behavioral health, and physical health services through managed care organizations (MCOs) selected by the state through a competitive procurement process.</p>	
Specify the §1915(b) authorities under which this program operates (<i>check each that applies</i>):		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§1915(b)(1) (mandated enrollment to managed care)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§1915(b)(2) (central broker)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	§1915(b)(3) (employ cost savings to furnish additional services)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	§1915(b)(4) (selective contracting/limit number of providers)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>A program operated under §1932(a) of the Act. <i>Specify the nature of the State Plan benefit and indicate whether the State Plan Amendment has been submitted or previously approved:</i></p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>A program authorized under §1915(i) of the Act.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>A program authorized under §1915(j) of the Act.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>A program authorized under §1115 of the Act. <i>Specify the program:</i></p>	

H. Dual Eligibility for Medicaid and Medicare.

Check if applicable:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This waiver provides services for individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.
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2. Brief Waiver Description

Brief Waiver Description. *In one page or less*, briefly describe the purpose of the waiver, including its goals, objectives, organizational structure (e.g., the roles of state, local and other entities), and service delivery methods.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania operates this §1915(c) waiver application concurrently with a §1915(b) waiver application to implement Community HealthChoices (CHC). CHC is Pennsylvania's managed Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) initiative. The 1915(b)/1915(c) waivers allow the Commonwealth to require Medicaid beneficiaries to receive both LTSS, including nursing facility, hospice, home and community-based services (HCBS), and physical health services through managed care organizations (MCOs). The MCOs were selected by the state through a competitive procurement process.

The CHC program serves the following:

- Individuals who are 21 years of age or older and who are financially and clinically eligible to receive Medicaid LTSS (whether in the community or in a nursing facilities).
- Individuals who are 21 years of age or older and who are fully eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare, regardless of whether they need or receive LTSS (referred to as "Dual Eligibles") excluding participants who are enrolled in the OBRA waiver or a home and community-based waiver administered by the Office of Developmental Programs.

The CHC 1915(c) waiver will serve individuals who are 21 years of age or older and who are financially and clinically eligible to receive Medicaid LTSS in the community.

CHC operates across 5 geographical zones that comprise all 67 counties. CHC will be the sole Medicaid option for full Dual Eligibles. Other nursing facility clinically-eligible consumers residing in these five zones will have the choice between CHC and the Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) program.

CHC serves an estimated 483,000 individuals. CHC-MCOs are accountable for most Medicaid-covered services, including preventive services, primary and acute care, LTSS (HCBS and nursing facilities), prescription drugs, and dental services. Dual Eligibles have the option to have their Medicaid and Medicare services coordinated by the same MCO.

Behavioral Health Services are excluded from CHC-MCO Covered Services. The CHC-MCO must coordinate with the HealthChoices behavioral health MCOs.

Individuals served in the CHC waiver will receive any required behavioral health services (including drug and alcohol services) from behavioral health MCOs in Pennsylvania's other 1915(b) waiver, HealthChoices. The HealthChoices waiver (designated as PA-67) was renewed for a five-year time period beginning January 1, 2022. As renewed, the HealthChoices waiver includes additional populations to accommodate individuals who participate in CHC and who need behavioral health services.

The CHC waiver is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL), an office within the Single State Medicaid Agency. OLTL contracts with the CHC-MCOs to provide services and to enforce waiver obligations. The CHC-MCOs are paid a monthly capitation rate for services. CHC-MCOs may use written contracts meeting the requirements of 42 CFR 434.6 to deliver other services. Entities or individuals under contract or subcontract with the CHC-MCO must meet provider standards described elsewhere in the waiver application.

CHC emphasizes deinstitutionalization and provides an array of services and supports in community-integrated settings.

3. Components of the Waiver Request

The waiver application consists of the following components. *Note: Item 3-E must be completed.*

- A. **Waiver Administration and Operation.** Appendix A specifies the administrative and operational structure of this waiver.
- B. **Participant Access and Eligibility.** Appendix B specifies the target group(s) of individuals who are served in this waiver, the number of participants that the State expects to serve during each year that the waiver is in effect, applicable Medicaid eligibility and post-eligibility (if applicable) requirements, and procedures for the evaluation and reevaluation of level of care.
- C. **Participant Services.** Appendix C specifies the home and community-based waiver services that are furnished through the waiver, including applicable limitations on such services.
- D. **Participant-Centered Service Planning and Delivery.** Appendix D specifies the procedures and methods that the State uses to develop, implement and monitor the participant-centered service plan (of care).
- E. **Participant-Direction of Services.** When the State provides for participant direction of services, Appendix E specifies the participant direction opportunities that are offered in the waiver and the supports that are available to participants who direct their services. (*Select one*):

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Yes. This waiver provides participant direction opportunities. <i>Appendix E is required.</i>
<input type="radio"/>	No. This waiver does not provide participant direction opportunities. <i>Appendix E is not required.</i>

- F. **Participant Rights.** Appendix F specifies how the State informs participants of their Medicaid Fair Hearing rights and other procedures to address participant grievances and complaints.
- G. **Participant Safeguards.** Appendix G describes the safeguards that the State has established to assure the health and welfare of waiver participants in specified areas.
- H. **Quality Improvement Strategy.** Appendix H contains the Quality Improvement Strategy for this waiver.
- I. **Financial Accountability.** Appendix I describes the methods by which the State makes payments for waiver services, ensures the integrity of these payments, and complies with applicable federal requirements concerning payments and federal financial participation.
- J. **Cost-Neutrality Demonstration.** Appendix J contains the State's demonstration that the waiver is cost-neutral.

4. Waiver(s) Requested

- A. Comparability.** The State requests a waiver of the requirements contained in §1902(a)(10)(B) of the Act in order to provide the services specified in **Appendix C** that are not otherwise available under the approved Medicaid State plan to individuals who: (a) require the level(s) of care specified in Item 1.F and (b) meet the target group criteria specified in **Appendix B**.
- B. Income and Resources for the Medically Needy.** Indicate whether the State requests a waiver of §1902(a)(10)(C)(i)(III) of the Act in order to use institutional income and resource rules for the medically needy (*select one*):

<input type="radio"/>	Not Applicable
<input type="radio"/>	No
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Yes

- C. Statewideness.** Indicate whether the State requests a waiver of the statewideness requirements in §1902(a)(1) of the Act (*select one*):

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	No
<input type="radio"/>	Yes

If yes, specify the waiver of state wideness that is requested (*check each that applies*):

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Geographic Limitation. A waiver of state wideness is requested in order to furnish services under this waiver only to individuals who reside in the following geographic areas or political subdivisions of the State.</p> <p><i>Specify the areas to which this waiver applies and, as applicable, the phase-in schedule of the waiver by geographic area:</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Limited Implementation of Participant-Direction. A waiver of statewideness is requested in order to make <i>participant direction of services</i> as specified in Appendix E available only to individuals who reside in the following geographic areas or political subdivisions of the State. Participants who reside in these areas may elect to direct their services as provided by the State or receive comparable services through the service delivery methods that are in effect elsewhere in the State.</p> <p><i>Specify the areas of the State affected by this waiver and, as applicable, the phase-in schedule of the waiver by geographic area:</i></p>

5. Assurances

In accordance with 42 CFR §441.302, the State provides the following assurances to CMS:

- A. Health & Welfare:** The State assures that necessary safeguards have been taken to protect the health and welfare of persons receiving services under this waiver. These safeguards include:

 1. As specified in **Appendix C**, adequate standards for all types of providers that provide services under this waiver;
 2. Assurance that the standards of any State licensure or certification requirements specified in **Appendix C** are met for services or for individuals furnishing services that are provided under the waiver. The State assures that these requirements are met on the date that the services are furnished; and,
 3. Assurance that all facilities subject to § 1616(e) of the Act where home and community-based waiver services are provided comply with the applicable State standards for board and care facilities as specified in **Appendix C**.
- B. Financial Accountability.** The State assures financial accountability for funds expended for home and community-based services and maintains and makes available to the Department of Health and Human Services (including the Office of the Inspector General), the Comptroller General, or other designees, appropriate financial records documenting the cost of services provided under the waiver. Methods of financial accountability are specified in **Appendix I**.
- C. Evaluation of Need:** The State assures that it provides for an initial evaluation (and periodic reevaluations, at least annually) of the need for a level of care specified for this waiver, when there is a reasonable indication that an individual might need such services in the near future (one month or less) but for the receipt of home and community-based services under this waiver. The procedures for evaluation and reevaluation of level of care are specified in **Appendix B**.
- D. Choice of Alternatives:** The State assures that when an individual is determined to be likely to require the level of care specified for this waiver and is in a target group specified in **Appendix B**, the individual (or, legal representative, if applicable) is:

 1. Informed of any feasible alternatives under the waiver; and,
 2. Given the choice of either institutional or home and community-based waiver services.

Appendix B specifies the procedures that the State employs to ensure that individuals are informed of feasible alternatives under the waiver and given the choice of institutional or home and community-based waiver services.
- E. Average Per Capita Expenditures:** The State assures that, for any year that the waiver is in effect, the average per capita expenditures under the waiver will not exceed 100 percent of the average per capita expenditures that would have been made under the Medicaid State plan for the level(s) of care specified for this waiver had the waiver not been granted. Cost-neutrality is demonstrated in **Appendix J**.
- F. Actual Total Expenditures:** The State assures that the actual total expenditures for home and community-based waiver and other Medicaid services and its claim for FFP in expenditures for the services provided to individuals under the waiver will not, in any year of the waiver period, exceed 100 percent of the amount that would be incurred in the absence of the waiver by the State's Medicaid program for these individuals in the institutional setting(s) specified for this waiver.
- G. Institutionalization Absent Waiver:** The State assures that, absent the waiver, individuals served in the waiver would receive the appropriate type of Medicaid-funded institutional care for the level of care specified for this waiver.
- H. Reporting:** The State assures that annually it will provide CMS with information concerning the impact of the waiver on the type, amount and cost of services provided under the Medicaid State plan and on the health and welfare of waiver participants. This information will be consistent with a data collection plan designed by CMS.

- I. Habilitation Services.** The State assures that prevocational, educational, or supported employment services, or a combination of these services, if provided as habilitation services under the waiver are: (1) not otherwise available to the individual through a local educational agency under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and, (2) furnished as part of expanded habilitation services.
- J. Services for Individuals with Chronic Mental Illness.** The State assures that federal financial participation (FFP) will not be claimed in expenditures for waiver services including, but not limited to, day treatment or partial hospitalization, psychosocial rehabilitation services, and clinic services provided as home and community-based services to individuals with chronic mental illnesses if these individuals, in the absence of a waiver, would be placed in an IMD and are: (1) age 22 to 64; (2) age 65 and older and the State has not included the optional Medicaid benefit cited in 42 CFR §440.140; or (3) age 21 and under and the State has not included the optional Medicaid benefit cited in 42 CFR §440.160.

6. Additional Requirements

Note: Item 6-I must be completed.

- A. Service Plan.** In accordance with 42 CFR §441.301(b)(1)(i), a participant-centered service plan (of care) is developed for each participant employing the procedures specified in **Appendix D**. All waiver services are furnished pursuant to the service plan. The service plan describes: (a) the waiver services that are furnished to the participant, their projected frequency and the type of provider that furnishes each service and (b) the other services (regardless of funding source, including State plan services) and informal supports that complement waiver services in meeting the needs of the participant. The service plan is subject to the approval of the Medicaid agency. Federal financial participation (FFP) is not claimed for waiver services furnished prior to the development of the service plan or for services that are not included in the service plan.
- B. Inpatients.** In accordance with 42 CFR §441.301(b)(1)(ii), waiver services are not furnished to individuals who are in-patients of a hospital, nursing facility or ICF/IID.
- C. Room and Board.** In accordance with 42 CFR §441.310(a)(2), FFP is not claimed for the cost of room and board except when: (a) provided as part of respite services in a facility approved by the State that is not a private residence or (b) claimed as a portion of the rent and food that may be reasonably attributed to an unrelated caregiver who resides in the same household as the participant, as provided in **Appendix I**.
- D. Access to Services.** The State does not limit or restrict participant access to waiver services except as provided in **Appendix C**.
- E. Free Choice of Provider.** In accordance with 42 CFR §431.151, a participant may select any willing and qualified provider to furnish waiver services included in the service plan unless the State has received approval to limit the number of providers under the provisions of §1915(b) or another provision of the Act.
- F. FFP Limitation.** In accordance with 42 CFR §433 Subpart D, FFP is not claimed for services when another third-party (e.g., another third party health insurer or other federal or state program) is legally liable and responsible for the provision and payment of the service. FFP also may not be claimed for services that are available without charge, or as free care to the community. Services will not be considered to be without charge, or free care, when (1) the provider establishes a fee schedule for each service available and (2) collects insurance information from all those served (Medicaid, and non-Medicaid), and bills other legally liable third party insurers. Alternatively, if a provider certifies that a particular legally liable third party insurer does not pay for the service(s), the provider may not generate further bills for that insurer for that annual period.
- G. Fair Hearing:** The State provides the opportunity to request a Fair Hearing under 42 CFR §431 Subpart E, to individuals: (a) who are not given the choice of home and community-based waiver services as an alternative to institutional level of care specified for this waiver; (b) who are denied the service(s) of their choice or the provider(s) of their choice; or (c) whose services are denied, suspended, reduced or terminated. **Appendix F** specifies the State's procedures to provide individuals the opportunity to request a Fair Hearing, including providing notice of action as required in 42 CFR §431.210.
- H. Quality Improvement.** The State operates a formal, comprehensive system to ensure that the waiver meets the assurances and other requirements contained in this application. Through an ongoing process of discovery, remediation and improvement, the State assures the health and welfare of participants by monitoring: (a) level of care determinations; (b) individual plans and services delivery; (c) provider qualifications; (d) participant health and welfare; (e) financial oversight and (f) administrative oversight of the waiver. The State further assures that all problems identified through its discovery processes are addressed in an appropriate and timely manner, consistent with the severity and nature of the problem.

During the period that the waiver is in effect, the State will implement the Quality Improvement Strategy specified throughout the application and in **Appendix H**.

- I. Public Input.** Describe how the State secures public input into the development of the waiver:

- J. Notice to Tribal Governments.** The State assures that it has notified in writing all federally-recognized Tribal Governments that maintain a primary office and/or majority population within the State of the State's intent to submit a Medicaid waiver request or renewal request to CMS at least 60 days before the anticipated submission date as provided by Presidential Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000. Evidence of the applicable notice is available through the Medicaid Agency.

- K. Limited English Proficient Persons.** The State assures that it provides meaningful access to waiver services by Limited English Proficient persons in accordance with: (a) Presidential Executive Order 13166 of August 11, 2000 (65 FR 50121) and (b) Department of Health and Human Services "Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons" (68 FR 47311 - August 8, 2003). **Appendix B** describes how the State assures meaningful access to waiver services by Limited English Proficient persons.

7. Contact Person(s)

A. The Medicaid agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

Last Name:	Hale			
First Name:	Jennifer			
Title:	Policy Director			
Agency:	Department of Human Services, Office of Long-Term Living			
Address :	6th Floor, Forum Place			
Address 2:	555 Walnut Street			
City:	Harrisburg			
State:	Pennsylvania			
Zip:	17101			
Phone:	(717) 346-0495	Ext:	<input type="checkbox"/>	TTY
Fax:	(717) 265-7698			
E-mail:	jehale@pa.gov			

B. If applicable, the State operating agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

Last Name:				
First Name:				
Title:				
Agency:				
Address:				
Address 2:				
City:				
State:				
Zip :				
Phone:		Ext:	<input type="checkbox"/>	TTY
Fax:				
E-mail:				

8. Authorizing Signature

This document, together with Appendices A through J, constitutes the State's request for a waiver under §1915(c) of the Social Security Act. The State assures that all materials referenced in this waiver application (including standards, licensure and certification requirements) are *readily* available in print or electronic form upon request to CMS through the Medicaid agency or, if applicable, from the operating agency specified in Appendix A. Any proposed changes to the waiver will be submitted by the Medicaid agency to CMS in the form of waiver amendments.

Upon approval by CMS, the waiver application serves as the State's authority to provide home and community-based waiver services to the specified target groups. The State attests that it will abide by all provisions of the approved waiver and will continuously operate the waiver in accordance with the assurances specified in Section 5 and the additional requirements specified in Section 6 of the request.

Signature: _____

State Medicaid Director or Designee

Submission Date:	
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Note: The Signature and Submission Date fields will be automatically completed when the State Medicaid Director submits the application.

Last Name:	Kozak			
First Name:	Sally			
Title:	Medicaid Director			
Agency:	Department of Human Services, Office of Medical Assistance Programs			
Address:	625 Forster Street			
Address 2:	Room 515, Health & Welfare Building			
City:	Harrisburg			
State:	Pennsylvania			
Zip:	17120			
Phone:	(717) 787-1870	Ext:		<input type="checkbox"/> TTY
Fax:	(717) 787-4639			
E-mail:	sakozak@pa.gov			

Attachment #1: Transition Plan

Specify the transition plan for the waiver:

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State:	
Effective Date	

Attachment #2: Home and Community-Based Settings Waiver Transition Plan

Specify the state's process to bring this waiver into compliance with federal home and community-based (HCB) settings requirements at 42 CFR 441.301(c)(4)-(5), and associated CMS guidance.

Consult with CMS for instructions before completing this item. This field describes the status of a transition process at the point in time of submission. Relevant information in the planning phase will differ from information required to describe attainment of milestones.

To the extent that the state has submitted a statewide HCB settings transition plan to CMS, the description in this field may reference that statewide plan. The narrative in this field must include enough information to demonstrate that this waiver complies with federal HCB settings requirements, including the compliance and transition requirements at 42 CFR 441.301(c)(6), and that this submission is consistent with the portions of the statewide HCB settings transition plan that are germane to this waiver. Quote or summarize germane portions of the statewide HCB settings transition plan as required.

Note that Appendix C-5 HCB Settings describes settings that do not require transition; the settings listed there meet federal HCB setting requirements as of the date of submission. Do not duplicate that information here.

Update this field and Appendix C-5 when submitting a renewal or amendment to this waiver for other purposes. It is not necessary for the state to amend the waiver solely for the purpose of updating this field and Appendix C-5. At the end of the state's HCB settings transition process for this waiver, when all waiver settings meet federal HCB setting requirements, enter "Completed" in this field, and include in Section C-5 the information on all HCB settings in the waiver.

Additional Needed Information (Optional)

Provide additional needed information for the waiver (optional):

State:	
Effective Date	