



Waiver Reimagine Implementation Update

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1. Brief overview of Waiver Reimagine: what it is and what it is not
2. Waiver Reimagine Phase 1 and 2 implementation status
3. Advisory Committee engagement and individualized outreach
4. Frequently asked questions

Waiver Reimagine: What is it?

Waiver Reimagine goals

- Simplify the system to make it easier for people to navigate
- Increase opportunities to self-direct services
- Establish individualized budgets that are connected to a person's support needs
 - Increase transparency
 - Address implicit bias
 - Advance equity

Waiver Reimagine Phases

Phase One - complete



**Common
service menu across
all waivers**

Phase Two – in progress



**Two waiver system
based on where a
person lives and not
on their diagnosis**



**A known and
transparent budget
based on a person's
needs**



**Informed decision
making and increase
flexibility
to self-direct**

Common service menu across all waivers

Corporate foster care Supported living service (SLS) corporate	➡	Community residential services
Family foster care SLS family	➡	Family residential services
Personal support Adult companion	➡	Individualized home supports (without training)
Independent living skills, training Individualized home supports Supported living services (15 min unit)	➡	Individualized home supports (with training)
In-home family supports	➡	Individualized home supports (with family training)
Day training & habilitation Structured day program	➡	Day support services

Waiver Reimagine: What it is not?

Important, impactful work, but is not Waiver Reimagine

- Workforce shortage efforts
- Revised MnCHOICES application
- Payment rates for waiver and state plan services
- Program eligibility
- Provider licensure and compliance
- CFSS launch and implementation timelines
- Federal requirements to ensure settings don't have characteristics of institutions
- Adding new waiver services

Waiver Reimagine: Community Engagement

- DHS continues to include the voices of people and families in these changes.
 - Multiple and ongoing outreach efforts since 2018 including focus groups, surveys, community meeting, and individual conversations.
 - Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee (WRAC) established since 2021.
 - Feedback from Tribal Nations partners through meeting series.
- DHS also recognizes the need to improve community engagement strategies and has engaged in individualized outreach and understanding perspectives from racially diverse communities.



Community Questions: Self Directed Budgets

Will the individual budgets for those who choose to self-direct be different from the budgets for those who choose not to self-direct their disability waived services?

- Under Waiver Reimagine, a person's budget will be based on their needs and not on how they choose to receive their services, self-directed or not.
- Once a person is assigned to a support range (budget), then they will get to choose whether they self-direct all, some or none of their services.
- People with similar needs on the same waiver will have the same budget amount, regardless of whether they self-direct.

Community Questions: Own-home options

Why is there a difference between the preliminary support ranges for people on the “residential waiver” versus the “independent supports waiver?”

- Support range budgets reflect the cost or the rate of services available to people living in different settings (community residential settings, living independently, etc.)
- Rates for these services are set by the Legislature.
- According to the statutory rates, and previous analysis of waiver spending across Minnesota, providing residential services generally costs more than supporting a person who lives independently.

Community Questions: Support Ranges

Are the preliminary budget amounts in the 2021 Legislative report final?

- The proposed support ranges and budget amounts in the 2021 legislative report are not final.
- DHS will update them before Waiver Reimagine is implemented.
- The support ranges will need to be updated based on data from MnCHOICES.
- DHS will review this information with community partners, including reviewing records and budgets with the Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee (WRAC).
- There could be new directives from the legislature before implementation that dictate changes in budget amounts as well.

Community questions: nursing services

How are nursing services paid for under Waiver Reimagine and will my family have the flexibility to purchase the same level of nursing supports?

- Initial budgets Waiver Reimagine budgets did not include the cost of delivering home care nursing services.
- Instead, people will access home care nursing under the state plan option, not the disability waivers.
- DHS continues to listen to families on this topic and the legislature may make future investments to include the cost of nursing in disability waiver individual budgets.

Thank you!

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