



2024 WAIVER CHANGES

Be Heard:

Steps to Submitting Public Comments



On January 17, 2024, the Family and Social Services Administration submitted new waiver plans and amendments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This is an administrative rule making process. Individuals, families, and organizations can and should weigh in on these changes.

Steps to Sharing Your Opinion

1. Make sure your information is accurate.

Make sure the information you have is accurate and from a trusted source. Check The Arc of Indiana's [information page](#), which will provide accurate information that is easy to understand. Check FSSA's [FAQ page](#).

Watch the [DDRS Advisory Committee video](#) from 1-17-24 on YouTube to hear the information first hand. Read the [proposed waiver amendments](#) and [information from the state](#).

2. Decide what is important to you and what you want to address.

If there are changes you like, make sure to point that out, including why you like it and how it will help individuals with disabilities and families. If there are things you don't like:

- Be specific in what you don't like
- Explain how it will hurt individuals with disabilities
 - Example: We could never maintain staffing before I could be a paid caregiver. My son's health was getting worse. I had to miss work so often because of a lack of staff that I could not keep a job. Since I have been able to be his paid caregiver, he is getting the care he needs, and his health has improved. He has been admitted to the hospital less. We are able to pay our bills, and we don't have to go to food pantries. I have been able to set up an emergency fund because there are always emergencies, but now we can manage them.

- Explain how it will harm the state
 - Example: Before I could be my son's paid caregiver, we could not keep staff, and his health kept getting worse. He was hospitalized multiple times. Without consistent staffing, he is at risk of going into a nursing home, which will cost the state substantially more than paying me to care for him. The inconsistent staffing we had before this put him in danger. Allowing paid family caregivers saves the state substantial money. His health has stabilized, so his medical costs are reduced. Keeping him home, even while paying me to care for him, is far cheaper than paying for a nursing home.

3. Be concise

You want them to read your entire story, and you want your story to make an impact.

4. Suggest solutions, if possible

Suggest changes that will make things better, if possible. Understand what they are trying to accomplish and consider if there are other ways to accomplish the goal while also making it better for people with disabilities and their families. People are often more receptive if you can also offer solutions. Is there an adjustment to the proposal that will make it better? Is there a different option that will allow both sides to accomplish their goals? Offering solutions can help people think in different ways.

5. Get it to the right people

This is an administrative rule change. Public comments need to be submitted through the administrative rule making process by February 16, 2024.

Email: DDRSwaivernoticecomment@fssa.IN.gov

You can also [contact your state senator, state representative](#), and [Governor Eric Holcomb](#) to make them aware of how this change will impact you and your family.

Stay Informed

Keep up to date on this issue and other critical issues impacting people with disabilities. Visit arcind.org/get-involved/connect-with-us to sign up for e-newsletters and find ways to follow us on social media. We are also posting information on our website at arcind.org/2024-medicaid-waiver-changes.