



Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group

March 10, 2021

Dave Richard, Deputy Secretary
DHHS Division of Health Benefits
1985 Umstead Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609

Dear Mr. Richard:

We are writing to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving North Carolina's request to amend the following 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers with the Emergency Preparedness and Response Appendix K in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic:

WAIVER TITLE	CMS AMENDMENT CONTROL NUMBER
Community Alternatives Program for Children	NC.4141.R06.06
Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults	NC.0132.R07.04
NC Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver	NC.1326.R00.05
NC Innovations	NC.0423.R03.06

The amendments that the state has requested in the Appendix Ks are additive to those previously approved and are effective from March 13, 2020 to six months after the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE) for COVID-19; they apply in all locations served by the individual waivers for anyone impacted by COVID-19.

Please note the guidance issued in the December 22, 2020 State Health Official Letter ([SHO](#)). Specifically, flexibilities approved via the 1135 authority expire at the end of the PHE. We advise that the state review the SHO, as well as the flexibilities approved via the 1135 authority and consider if adjustments need to be made in the Appendix K to compensate for the loss of the 1135 options. For example, CMS strongly advises that a state that waived regulatory requirements of a home and community-based setting for any new settings being used during the PHE, assess those settings to determine if they are appropriate for use in the six months after the PHE expires. When closing an Appendix K or ending an Appendix K flexibility prior to the end date of the Appendix K, the requirement for advance notice of beneficiaries applies. More details can be found on pages 11-12 of the SHO.

Mr. Richard – Page Two

If you need assistance, feel free to contact Ryan Shannahan of my staff at 410-786-0295 or by e-mail at Ryan.Shannahan@cms.hhs.gov or Ralph Lollar at 410-786-0777 or by e-mail at Ralph.Lollar@cms.hhs.gov .

Sincerely,

Alissa Mooney DeBoy
Director, DEHPG

Enclosure