



Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver: Renewal Overview

Department of Health Care Services
September 17, 2020



Agenda

- Medi-Cal Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)
- Overview of 1915(c) HCBS Waivers
- Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver
- Changes Accomplished through the 2017 Waiver Renewal Process
- 2022 HCBA Waiver Renewal Considerations
- HCBA Waiver Renewal Timeline and Process
- Stakeholder Engagement



Medi-Cal HCBS



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Medi-Cal

- Medicaid, known as Medi-Cal in California, is free or low-cost health coverage for children and adults with limited income and resources
- Medi-Cal is authorized and funded through a federal-state partnership
- Federal government sets minimum standards
- Medi-Cal delivery systems include Medi-Cal managed care, fee-for-service, and waiver programs



DHCS Efforts for HCBS

- Under Medi-Cal, California offers a broad array HCBS programs and providers to eligible beneficiaries, as well as statewide Medi-Cal managed care with care coordination requirements



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HCBS Initiatives

- DHCS has several initiatives planned or underway to strengthen the availability and coordination of HCBS across the state:
 - COVID Crisis Response Federal Flexibilities and Local Coordination
 - HCBA Waiver Renewal
 - CalAIM Enhanced Care Management, In-Lieu of Services, and Long-Term Care Carve-In
 - CalAIM transition of Coordinated Care Initiative to Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs)



Overview of 1915(c) HCBS Waivers



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HCBS 1915(c) Waiver Authority

- Under Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act (SSA), states have the option to submit HCBS waiver applications to the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval
- HCBS waivers allow states to provide medically-necessary services to eligible individuals in a community setting, instead of in an institution



Medical Necessity

Service authorization is based on medical necessity

- A service is “medically necessary” or a “medical necessity” when it is reasonable and necessary to protect life, to prevent significant illness or significant disability, or to alleviate severe pain.
 - Welfare and Institutions Code 14059.5



Why have an HCBS waiver?

- HCBS waivers allow states to waive one or more of three requirements under the SSA:
 - **Comparability** - offer services to waiver participants not provided to other Medicaid beneficiaries
 - **Statewideness** - limit the operation of a waiver to specified geographic areas of the state; and
 - **Income and Resources for the Medically Needy** - deem individuals eligible for Medicaid who would otherwise only be eligible in an institutional setting
- All other provisions of the SSA apply



HCBS Waiver Eligibility

Individuals must meet the following criteria to be eligible to enroll in an HCBS waiver:

- Meet Medicaid eligibility requirements
- Have care needs equal to the level received in an institution
- Require one or more waiver service to remain safe in the community
- Want to receive HCBS in the community, instead of receiving care in an institution



HCBS Waiver Goals

- Protect health, welfare, and safety
- Person-centered plan of care
- Participant choice and self-determination
- Institution to community diversion / transition
- Cost neutrality



California's 1915(c) HCBS Waivers

Waiver	Target Population	Service Area
Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA)	Aged, disabled, all ages	Statewide
Assisted Living Waiver (ALW)	Aged, disabled, 21 and over	15 Counties
HCBS Waiver for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (HCBS-DD)	Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities, all ages	Statewide
HIV/AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP)	Individuals with HIV/AIDS, all ages	Statewide
Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)	Aged, 65 and older	46 Counties
Self Determination Program (SDP)	Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities, all ages	Statewide



HCBS Waiver Renewal Timelines

- 1915(c) HCBS waivers must be resubmitted to CMS for reauthorization every five years
- Initial waiver terms are approved for three years



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Home and Community Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver



Photo by Lisa Fotios on Pexels



HCBA Waiver Overview

- The HCBA Waiver (formerly the Nursing Facility/Acute Hospital (NF/AH) Waiver) was approved by CMS on May 16, 2017, with an effective period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2021
- The HCBA Waiver provides care management services to persons at risk for nursing home or institutional placement
- A multidisciplinary team provides care management services, coordinates waiver and State Plan services (e.g., medical, behavioral health, In-Home Supportive Services, etc.), and arranges for other long-term services and supports available in the local community



HCBA Population and Service Locations

- Target population:
 - Full-Scope Medi-Cal
 - Aged or Disabled
 - All Ages
 - Nursing Facility Level of Care
- Current enrollment (as of August 2020): 5,273 participants, and 607 applicants on waitlists
- Maximum 8,974 slots in 2021
- Services are provided in the home, a Congregate Living Health Facility (CLHF), or an Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities – Continuous Nursing (ICF/DD-CN)



HCBA Waiver Agency Model

Who

- Organizations with experience providing case management and administrative functions for comparable populations
- Non-profits, for-profits (e.g., Home Health Agencies), professional corporations, County/City entities, etc.

How

- DHCS developed a Solicitation for Application (SFA) process to identify qualified entities
- DHCS entered into contracts with selected entities to delegate HCBA Waiver Agency responsibilities

When

- DHCS implemented the Waiver Agency model effective August 1, 2018
- DHCS conducted training and readiness review functions for selected Waiver Agencies prior to implementation, and continues to provide training and technical support



Changes Accomplished through the 2017 Waiver Renewal Process



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Key Changes in 2017

- Waiver name
- Waiver capacity
- Reserve capacity and waitlist criteria
- Level of Care (LOC) consolidation
- Case Management Acuity Assessment
- Shift to an Organized Health Care Delivery System (OHCDS) model



New Name for Waiver

Previous Waiver

Nursing Facility/Acute Hospital (NF/AH) Transition and Diversion Waiver

1/1/2012 –
12/31/2016

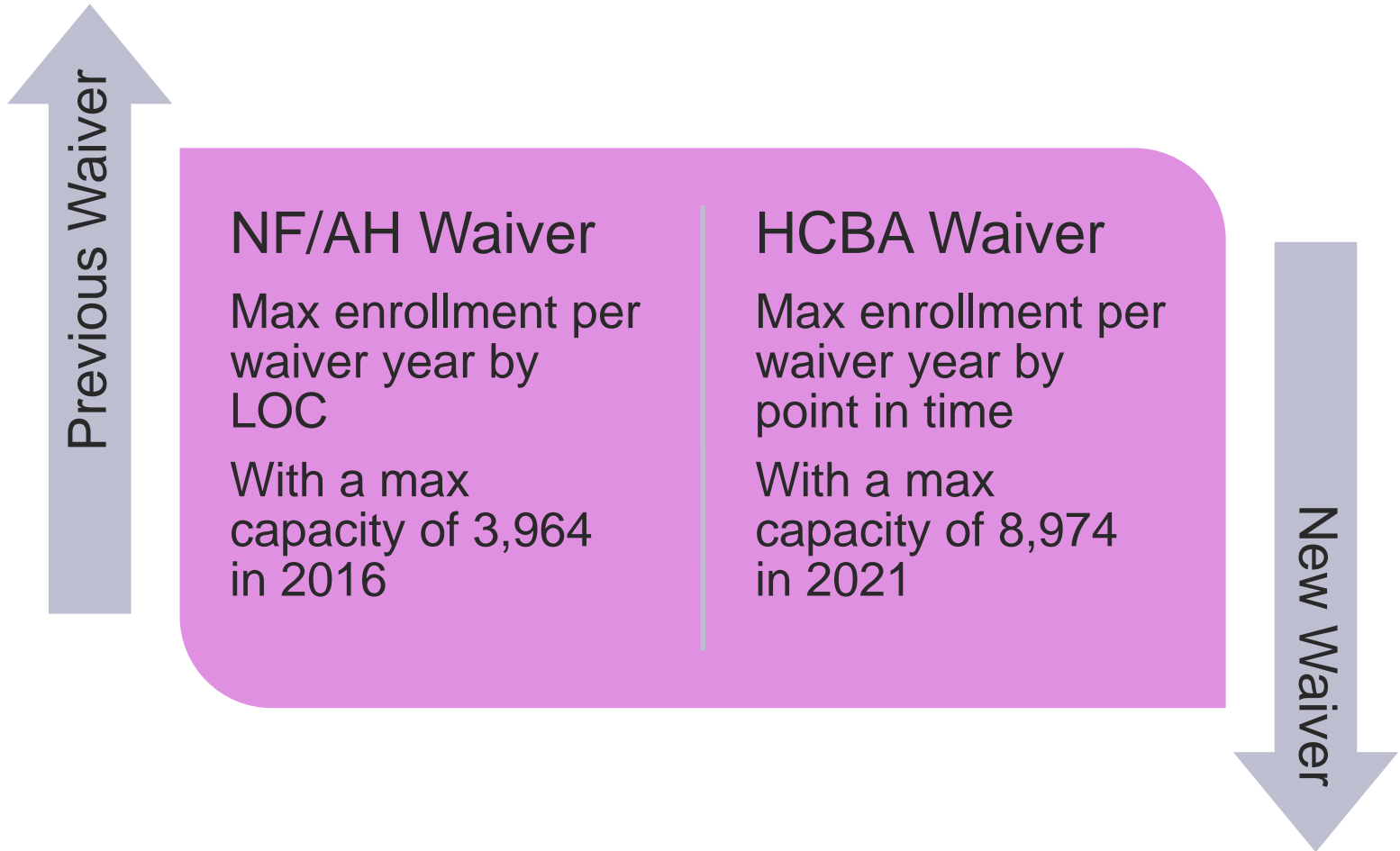
Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver

1/1/2017 –
12/31/2021

New Waiver

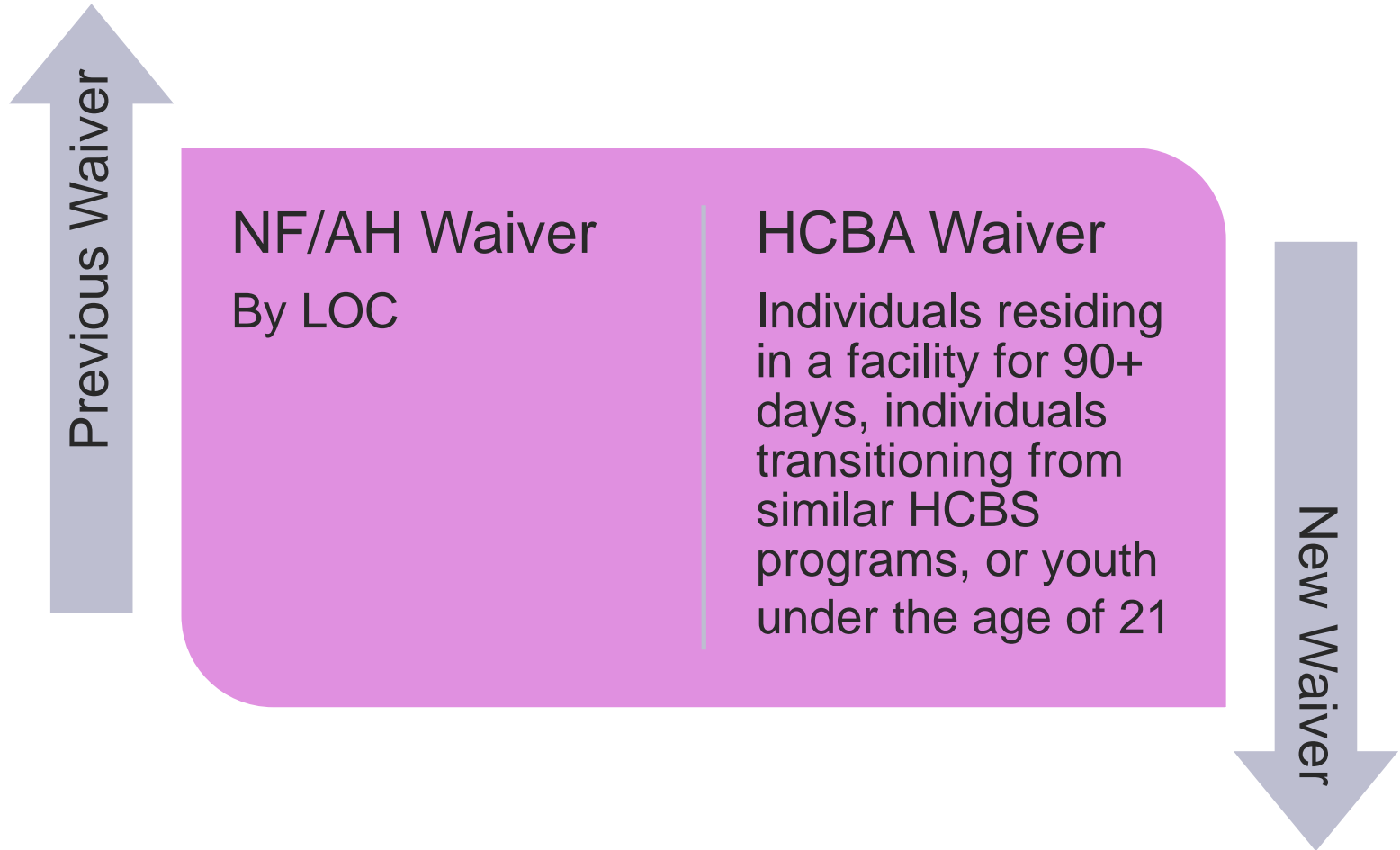


Waiver Capacity



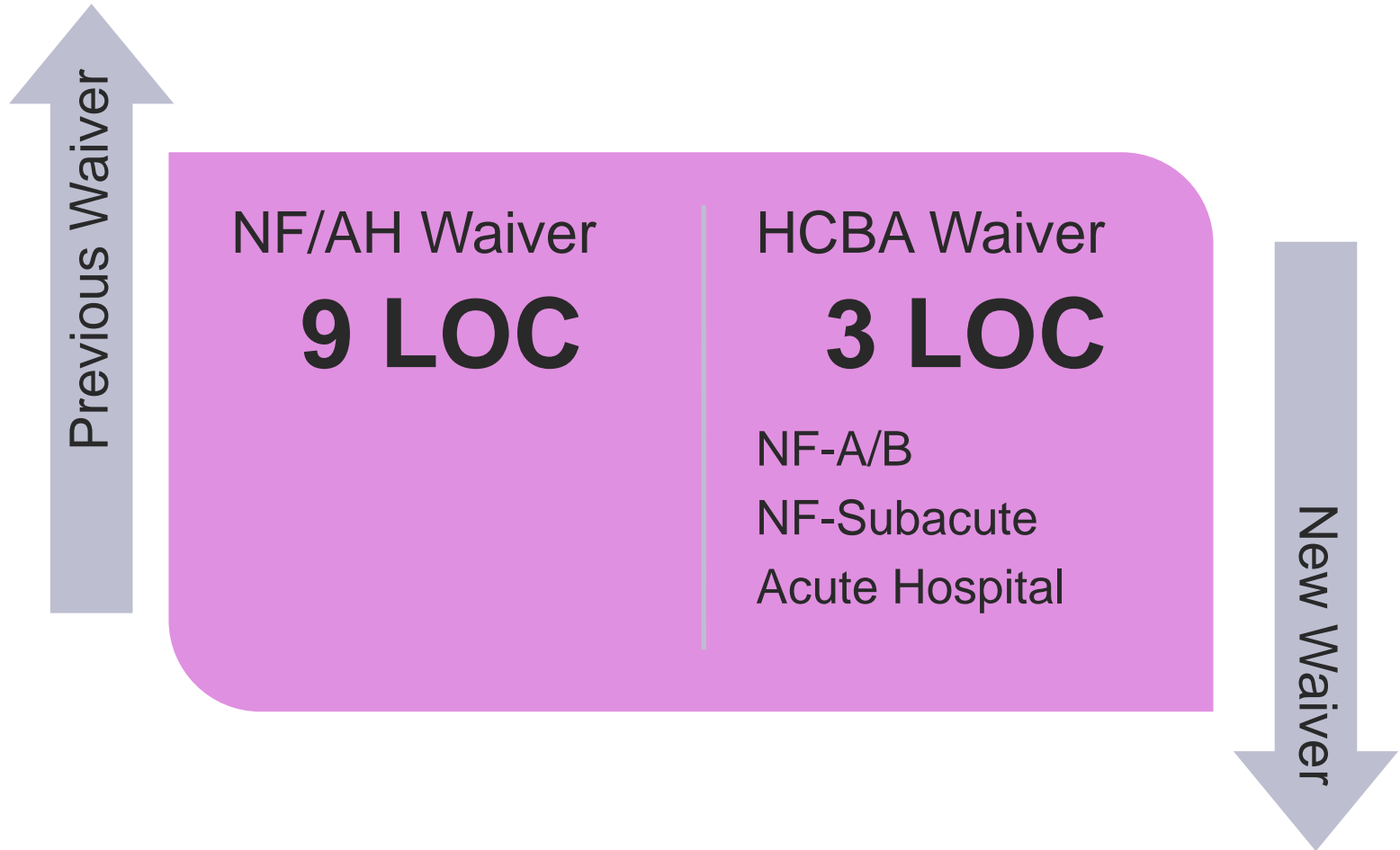


Reserved Capacity



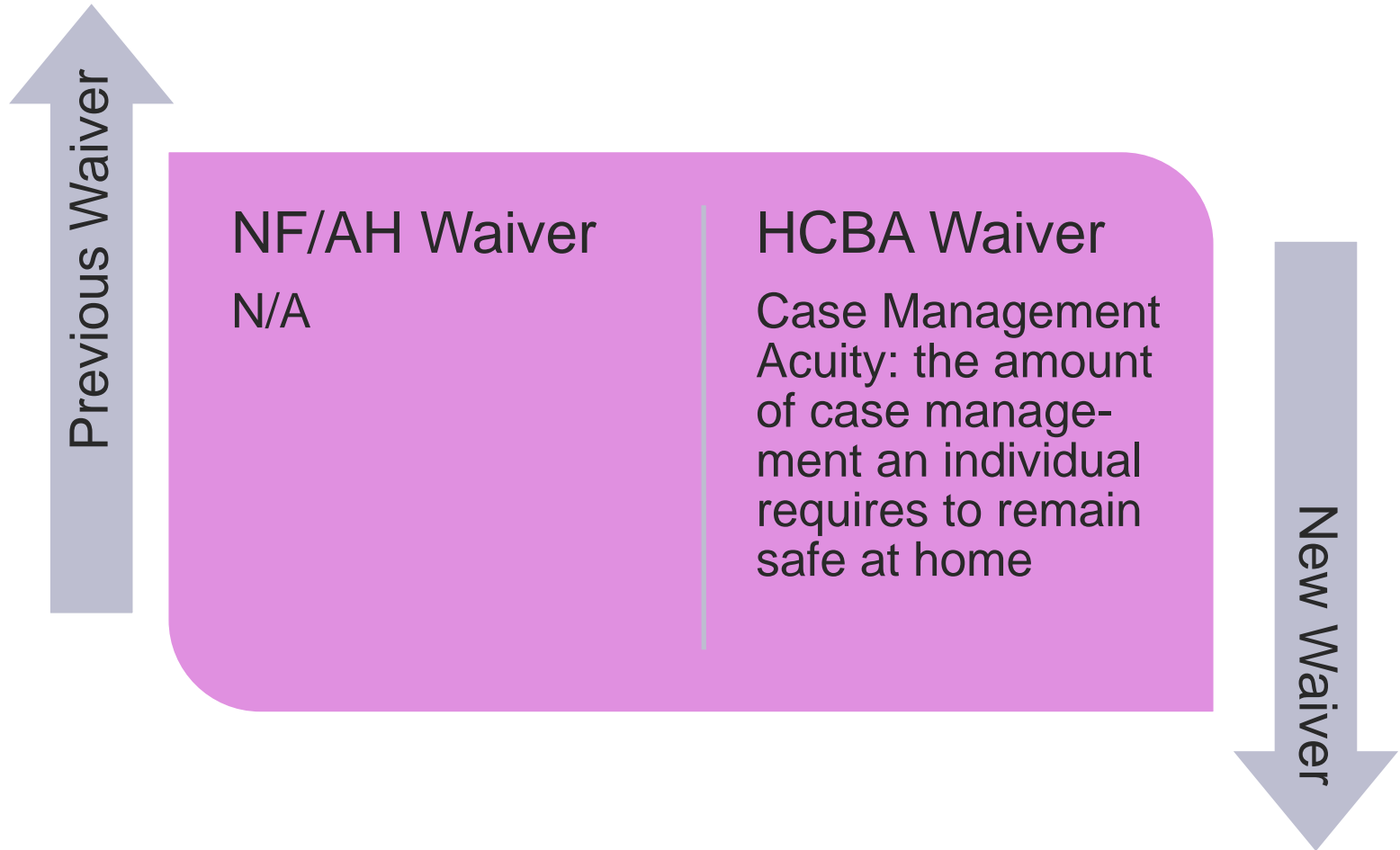


Consolidated LOC



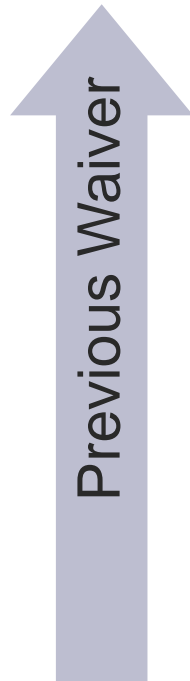


Case Management Acuity





Administrative Model

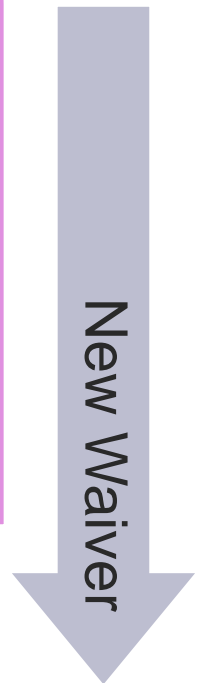


NF/AH Waiver

State-operated waiver model with DHCS Nurse Evaluators providing administrative case management

HCBA Waiver

Approved as an OHCDS model with contracted organizations responsible for waiver administration at the local level





2022 HCBA Waiver Renewal Considerations



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Proposed Goals for HCBA Waiver Renewal

- Expand what works well
- Address elements that present challenges
- Safeguard participant health and safety
- Reinforce participant choice
- Improve access



Photo by You X Ventures on Unsplash

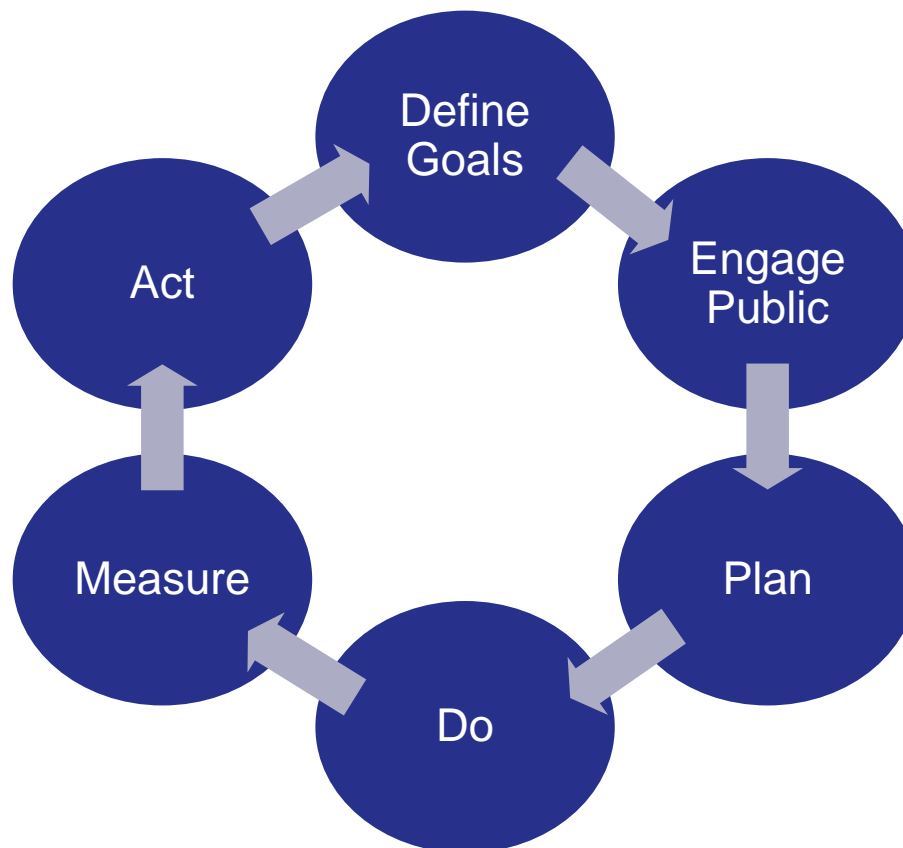


DHCS Requested Feedback from Stakeholders

- What is working well in the current HCBA Waiver?
- What are opportunities for improvements in the HCBA Waiver renewal?
- What other factors should DHCS consider in the HCBA Waiver renewal process?
- How can DHCS improve its overall HCBS strategy?



HCBA Waiver Renewal Timeline and Process





HCBA Waiver Renewal Timeline

- September 2020: Overview Webinar
- October 2020 - January 2021: Technical workgroup meetings
- January 2021: Workgroup renewal recommendations due to DHCS
- Spring 2021: DHCS prepares new/revised waiver content
- Summer 2021: Updated waiver posted for a 30 day public comment period
- Fall 2021: DHCS incorporates stakeholder feedback and submits waiver renewal to CMS
- January 1, 2022: Start date of new waiver term



Stakeholder Engagement

DHCS is committed to a robust public engagement process to help ensure the waiver continues to meet the needs of the eligible population.



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Opportunities for Public Feedback

- There will be multiple opportunities to submit feedback to DHCS during the waiver renewal process:
 - After today's presentation
 - After each of the three technical workgroup meetings
- Submit feedback no later than one week after today's presentation and each technical workgroup meeting to ensure your questions and comments can be considered by the following workgroup
- Send feedback to HCBAAlternatives@dhcs.ca.gov inbox, using the *HCBA Waiver Renewal Public Feedback* form available on the DHCS website



HCBA Waiver Renewal Technical Workgroup

- Participants
- HCBS waiver providers
- HCBA Waiver Agencies
- Advocates
- Other interested stakeholders



Next Steps

- To apply for the HCBA Waiver Renewal Technical Workgroup, stakeholders must submit a *Statement of Interest*, using the form available on DHCS' website, to the HCBAalternatives@dhcs.ca.gov inbox by September 25, 2020.



Stakeholder Questions and Comments



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For More Information

DHCS

- <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/>

HCBA

- [https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/Home-and-Community-Based-\(HCB\)-Alternatives-Waiver.aspx](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/Home-and-Community-Based-(HCB)-Alternatives-Waiver.aspx)

Waiver
Renewal

- <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/HCBA-Waiver-Renewal.aspx>

Please submit questions about the HCBA Waiver renewal to: HCBAAlternatives@dhcs.ca.gov