



**Advocacy** involves expressing your views and wishes about issues that are important to you. People with developmental disabilities and their families have the opportunity to advocate for supports, services, and systems change as the State plans for the renewal of the NJ FamilyCare Demonstration (Section 1115) Waiver. Sharing your lived experiences and vision helps policymakers understand why services are important and whether any changes are needed. This resource provides information to help you advocate by sharing your vision for the future and the ways you'd like supports and services to help you achieve the life you want.

## WHAT IS THE NJ FAMILYCARE DEMONSTRATION (1115) WAIVER?

The NJ FamilyCare Demonstration (1115) Waiver, also called the NJ Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver, provides federal funding from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) for many services that support people with developmental disabilities in their homes and communities.

This includes:

- Services for **adults** through the Division of Developmental Disabilities' Community Care Program and Supports Program
- Services for **children** under the Children's System of Care's Children's Support Service Program

The Waiver must be renewed every 5 years. Federal Medicaid rules require that the state gather input from those receiving services to plan for the next 5-year period.

## HOW CAN I ADVOCATE FOR WHAT I WANT?

New Jersey plans to submit a renewal application to CMS. To prepare for this renewal, the State will ask **stakeholders**, or those impacted by policies and services, for input.

The next page provides information about what is important for families and people with disabilities to share when providing stakeholder input.

# SHARING YOUR STORY AND VISION IN ADVOCACY: TIPS FOR PREPARING STAKEHOLDER INPUT



## Share your story:

Your story is important. It helps policymakers understand how policies and services impact the people they are designed to reach.

- *What is your current experience?*



## Present your vision for the future:

Sharing information about what people are looking for in their lives helps shape services so they work better for those receiving them.

- *What do you want your life to look like?*
- *What are your hopes, dreams, and goals?*



## Explain the need/issue to be addressed:

Based on your experiences and vision, help policymakers understand what is working and what is not working by answering these questions:

- *What things should stay the same? Why?*
- *What things should change? Why?*
- *How would you like the services made available through the **NJ FamilyCare Demonstration (1115) Waiver** help you reach your goal for life?*

Information about the **NJ FamilyCare Demonstration (1115) Waiver** renewal can be found at: [https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/home/1115\\_demo.html](https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/home/1115_demo.html)

You can submit your comments to Department of Human Services by email ([DMAHS.CMWcomments@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:DMAHS.CMWcomments@dhs.state.nj.us)) and/or register to participate in:

## Public Listening Session

Monday, September 27th 9:30am - 11:30am

Register at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_R-b58RqjQnOwrZEI8RMBLQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R-b58RqjQnOwrZEI8RMBLQ)



## TIPS FOR PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENT/TESTIMONY

Public listening sessions and hearings provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share their experiences and vision. When providing input in this way, keep in mind:



**You may not have much time- usually only 2-3 minutes.**



**You should prepare written testimony to “submit” and have notes for what you’ll say.**



**You may be asked questions. Only answer those you can answer correctly.**



**You may not have a chance to provide input if time runs out, even if you sign up for a spot.**



**You may submit written testimony if you cannot or choose not to participate in the public listening sessions.**

# SHARING YOUR VISION IN ADVOCACY: PROVIDING STAKEHOLDER INPUT



Preparation of this resource was funded by grant #90DDUC0036-04-00 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

September, 2021

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