

## What Does This Mean to Me? Temporary Waiver Updates July 2022 Eastern Kentucky Flooding

The Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) made temporary updates to the Commonwealth's six 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers: Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), Acquired Brain Injury Long Term Care (ABI LTC), Home and Community Based (HCB), Model II Waiver (MIIW), Michelle P. Waiver (MPW), and Supports for Community Living (SCL) due to the July 2022 flooding in eastern Kentucky.

### Why did DMS make these updates?

DMS clarified the locations where certain services can be provided and expanded service offerings. The goal of these updates is to:

- Address access to care issues caused by the natural disaster.
- To meet participant health, safety and welfare needs caused by the natural disaster
- Ease staffing shortages caused by the natural disaster.

The following changes have been made to the 1915(c) HCBS waiver programs. These changes are **temporary**.

- Residential, Respite, Attendant Care, and Personal Assistance can be provided in shelters, hotels, churches, and state park resorts.
- Residential services can be provided out-of-state to meet emergency housing needs.
- The timeline for annual re-evaluations has been expanded.
- Home Delivered Meals remains available to all participants (except Model II Waiver) due to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). The definition has been updated for those in areas affected by the natural disaster.

### Who Qualifies for These Updates?

These flexibilities in Appendix K – Natural Disaster are only **approved for participants and providers in 13 counties**: Breathitt, Clay, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike, and Wolfe. Participants and providers in these counties still have the flexibilities offered under [Appendix K – COVID-19](#) available to them as well.

All updates are outlined in Appendix K of the 1915(c) HCBS waiver application, which is available at <https://bit.ly/AppKEKYFloods>.

### How long will these temporary updates last?

DMS has requested these updates be valid through January 31, 2023, and will evaluate whether the timeline needs to be extended based on the status of the natural disaster recovery. There will be a transition period before returning to normal waiver operations.

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### **What if I have more questions?**

If you have questions about these temporary updates, you can contact DMS by calling (844) 784-5614 or by email at [1915cWaiverHelpDesk@ky.gov](mailto:1915cWaiverHelpDesk@ky.gov)