



## What Does This Mean to Me? Temporary Waiver Updates December 2021 Tornado Outbreak

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 tornado outbreak in western Kentucky on December 10-11, 2021.

### Why did DMS make these updates?

DMS clarified the locations where certain services can be provided, expanded service offerings, and loosened provider requirements. 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.
- ABI and ABI LTC providers can house up to five participants in Residential settings. ABI and ABI LTC participants can receive Technology-Assisted Residential.
- The qualifications for case managers have been changed. The minimum age for Respite, Personal Assistance, and Residential workers has been lowered from 21 to 18.
- The timeline for annual re-evaluations has been expanded.
- The following services have been expanded to all waivers: Individual Counseling, Minor Home Adaptation, Goods and Services, Specialized Medical Equipment, and Transportation.
- 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 are only **approved for participants and providers in 23 counties**: Breckenridge, Boyle, Bullitt, Caldwell, Christian, Edmonson, Fulton, Graves, Green, Hart, Hickman, Hopkins, Logan, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Shelby, Spencer, Taylor, and Warren.



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

### **How long will these temporary updates last?**

DMS has requested these updates be valid through June 2022 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.

### **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)