#### Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) Waiver Renewal Input Session



Wisconsin Department of Health Services Division of Medicaid Services Bureau of Programs and Policy

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Wisconsin Department of Health Services

#### Presenter



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To protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin

#### Accessibility & Other Languages

- American Sign Language interpreter is available.
- Closed captioning is available.



- Non-English written feedback in the Q&A is welcome.
- A transcript of this webinar will be posted to our website in English, Hmong, and Spanish.

#### Information About Today's Webinar

- This webinar is being recorded. We will post a recorded version of the presentation and slides online.
   Comments from the Q&A and verbal comments will not be shared or posted.
- Your feedback will not be shared or posted to the website.

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#### Information About Today's Webinar

Everyone is currently muted. You will be able to unmute yourself later in the session.



You can submit your comments and questions using the Q&A.

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## **Goals for Today**

- Describe the IRIS program and waiver renewal
- Hear your ideas for improving the IRIS program
- Share other ways for you to get involved in the waiver renewal

## **Getting to Know DHS**

- The Department of Health Services (DHS) is a state government agency.
- Our mission is to protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin.
- DHS oversees the IRIS program and its waiver renewal.

## **Getting to Know You**

#### I am a:

- IRIS participant
- Family or friend
- Caregiver or provider

- Fiscal Employer Agent (FEA) or IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA)
- Advocate
- Other partner

## **Getting to Know You**

What part of Wisconsin are you from?



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#### **Getting to Know IRIS**

- The IRIS program is a self-directed Medicaid long-term care program for adults with disabilities and people over 65.
- Long-term care helps people with daily tasks and activities.
- The goal is to help participants utilize services they need to live in their homes and communities when possible.

### What is a Medicaid Waiver?

- A Medicaid waiver is a set of rules that allows DHS to have Medicaid programs like the IRIS program.
- The IRIS Medicaid waiver funds services to help participants successfully live and receive care in their community.

#### **Waiver Renewal Timeline**

Phase 2: Internal Approvals and submit to Joint Finance Committee (Jan – May 2025) Phase 4: Submission and Review by CMS (September – December 2025) Phase 3: Public and T

Waiver Effective Date January 1, 2026

**Phase 3**: Public and Tribal Comment (June – August 2025)

**Phase 1**: Drafting and conduct public forums and surveys (May – December 2024)

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#### **IRIS Waiver Renewal**

- The IRIS program is renewed every five years.
   Recent renewal: January 2021 December 2025
   Next renewal: January 2026 December 2030
- DHS will spend the next year and a half updating our waiver for 2026.
- This is our chance to improve the IRIS program.

#### **Goals of the Waiver Renewal**

To draft a waiver renewal application that:

- Addresses recent program and policy changes.
- Supports participant choice, self-determination, and access to high quality services.
- Uses cost-effective solutions.

Once approved, the waiver will impact the program from 2026 through 2030.

#### What Can We Change with the Waiver Renewal?

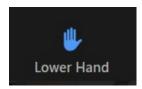
Changes we <b>can</b> make	Changes we <b>can't</b> make
<ul> <li>Which services are covered</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Changes that are not allowed by state or federal law</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>What existing services include</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Required provider qualifications</li> </ul>	

#### How Your Ideas Will Help

DHS will now be requesting your feedback and ideas. This will help us write a waiver renewal application that meets the needs of IRIS participants.

#### How to Share Your Feedback

- Click the raise hand button if you would like to provide verbal feedback. The button will turn blue if your hand is raised.
- DHS will turn your microphone on when it is your turn to speak. You will get a message to unmute yourself.
- DHS will allow up to 3 minutes for each verbal comment.



It will look like this when your hand is raised.



# Submit Your Feedback in the Q&A

You can also type your comments, questions, and feedback in the Q&A function at any time.



#### We Want to Hear from You

DHS wants your feedback and ideas:

- What is working well in the IRIS program?
- How can we improve the IRIS program?
- If added to the IRIS program, what new services would be helpful?
- How could the IRIS program better reflect your culture, background, and values?

#### What is working well in the IRIS program?

For example: Services, remaining active in the community, achieving goals, self-direction, etc.

#### How can we improve the IRIS program?

For example: Services, caregiver or provider access, program assistance, etc.

# If added to the IRIS program, what new services would be helpful?

For example: Services to help you successfully live, work, and receive care in your home and community.

# How could the IRIS program better reflect your culture, background, and values?

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#### Want to Learn More?

Visit us online: <u>dhs.wisconsin.gov/iris/waiver-renewal.htm</u>

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