

IRIS Waiver Renewal 2026-2030



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

Long Term Care Advisory Council
July 8, 2025

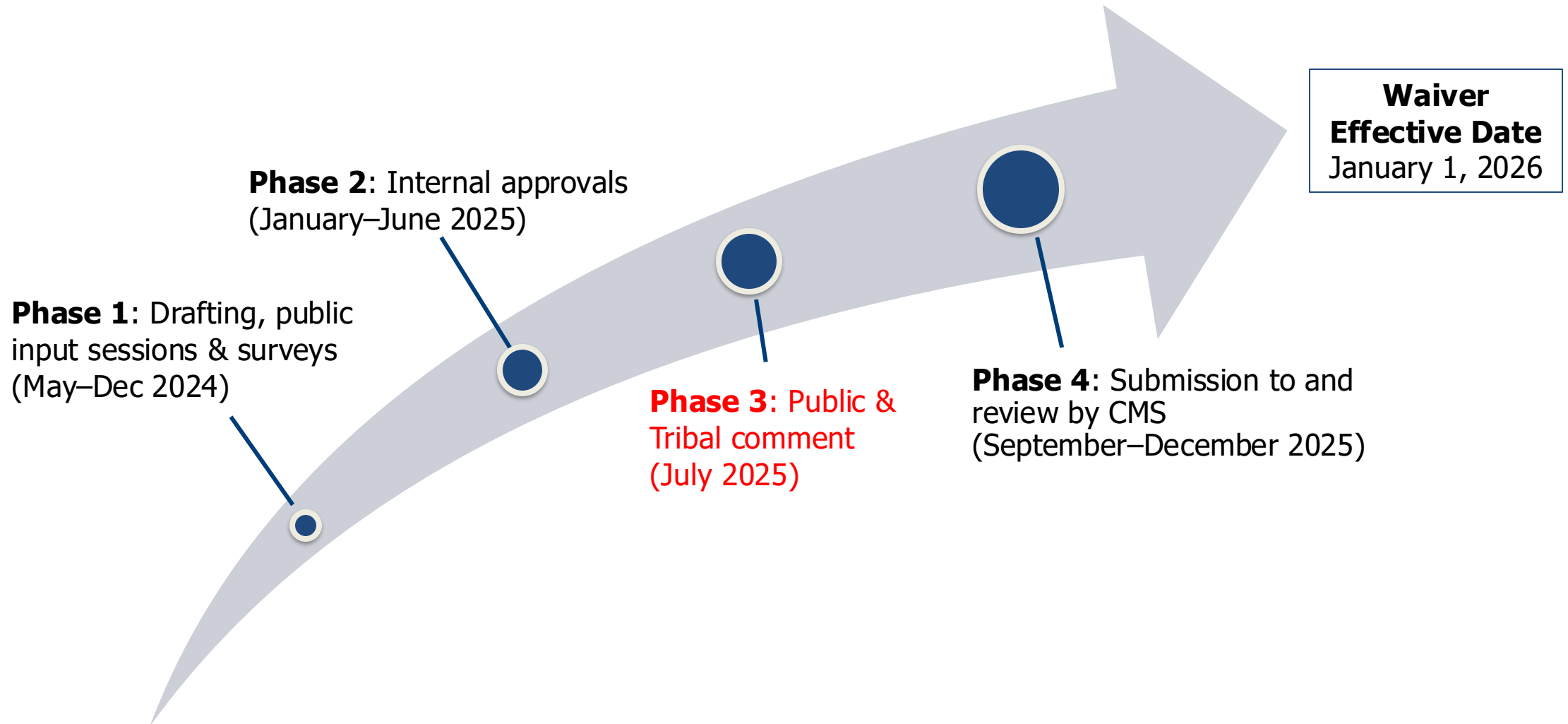
Agenda

- IRIS waiver background
- Waiver renewal timeline
- IRIS feedback themes
- Key changes in proposed waiver
- Discussion
- Next steps

IRIS Waiver Background

- IRIS serves more than 27,000 people in Wisconsin.
- IRIS is a 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver.
 - 1915(c) HCBS waivers are applications to the federal government that allow DHS to have Medicaid programs like the IRIS program.
 - IRIS' continued success is dependent on DHS successfully responding to CMS waiver questions and following federal guidelines.
- 1915(c) HCBS waivers need to be renewed and approved by CMS every five years.
- The IRIS program's waiver is due for renewal by December 31st, 2025.

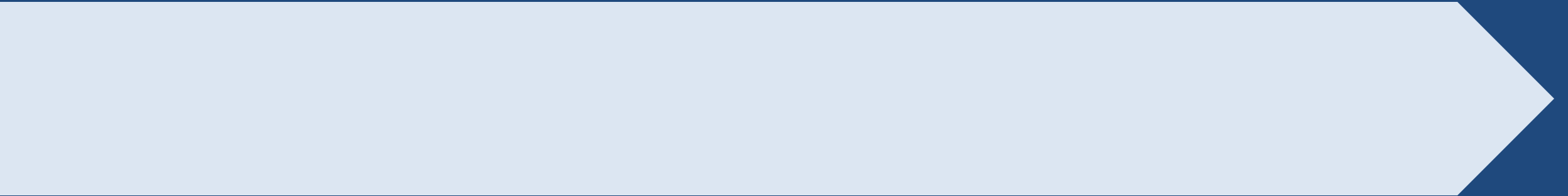
Waiver Renewal Timeline



Feedback Themes

Services	Expansion of services and providers across the state
Transportation	More reliable, accessible, flexible, and convenient options
Cultural Competency	Resources for culturally competent and inclusive services to ensure care is tailored to the diverse needs of individuals
Integrity	More robust oversight to ensure participants have tools needed to self-direct, manage funds, and receive quality care
Housing	More assistance with finding affordable, safe, and accessible housing
Self-Direction	Provide clearer guidance and support for the self-direction service delivery model

Key changes in proposed waiver



Administrative Changes

Updates made across the waiver:

- Focus on accuracy and clarity within current practices
- Address CMS waiver application updates
- Align with CMS, other states, and other Wisconsin long-term care programs

Administrative Changes

Service title updates:

- Counseling, Therapeutic, and Wellness Services (previously Counseling and Therapeutic Services)
- Day Habilitation (previously Day Services)
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptation (previously Home Modifications)
- Individual Supported Employment (previously Supported Employment- Individual)
- IRIS Consultant Agency Services (previously IRIS Consultant Services)
- Small Group Supported Employment (previously Supported Employment- Group)
- Virtual Monitoring and Emergency Response Systems (previously Personal Emergency Response Systems [PERS])
- Vocational Futures Planning and Support (previously Vocational and Futures Planning)

Key Changes

- **Housing Counseling** – Added service list to broaden the scope and added a collaborative assessment to determine participant's housing needs and preferences.
- **Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (Home Modifications)** – Updated to align with CMS and other adult LTC programs.
- **Relocation-Community Transition Services** – Added a service to help coordinate relocation activities with the participant, as well as added pre-move cleaning and household preparation.

Key Changes

- **Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Exploration (New!) –** Added new separate category to reflect current practices and align across other adult long-term care programs.
- **Individual Supported Employment –** Restructured category to reflect extensive employment activities including CIE Discovery.
- **Life Skills Training and Education (New!) –** Combined previous service categories Daily Living Skills Training (DLST) and Consumer Education and Training (CET).
 - Included existing services and added a service to reflect other adult LTC programs.
 - Increased limit from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

Key Changes

- **Community Transportation** – Broadened transportation options for participants.
 - Added transportation network companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft.
 - Clarified that transportation coverage includes public transit tickets and fare cards.
- **Assistive Technology** – Moved Interpreter Services and allowable provider types to this category. Included coverage for devices for remote service delivery.
- **Virtual Monitoring and Emergency Response Systems** – Modified service category to include virtual monitoring activities.

Key Changes

- **Respite** – Clarified language to address service scope and purpose to align with other states.
 - Defined “primary caregiver” and who is allowed to provide respite.
 - Clarified room and board is not covered to align with Wisconsin children’s programs and other states.
- **Participant-Hired Worker Training (New!)** – Hours for existing workers to train new staff are coverable under this service.
- **Counseling, Therapeutic, and Wellness Services** – Added culturally appropriate counseling, therapeutic, and wellness services and provider types.

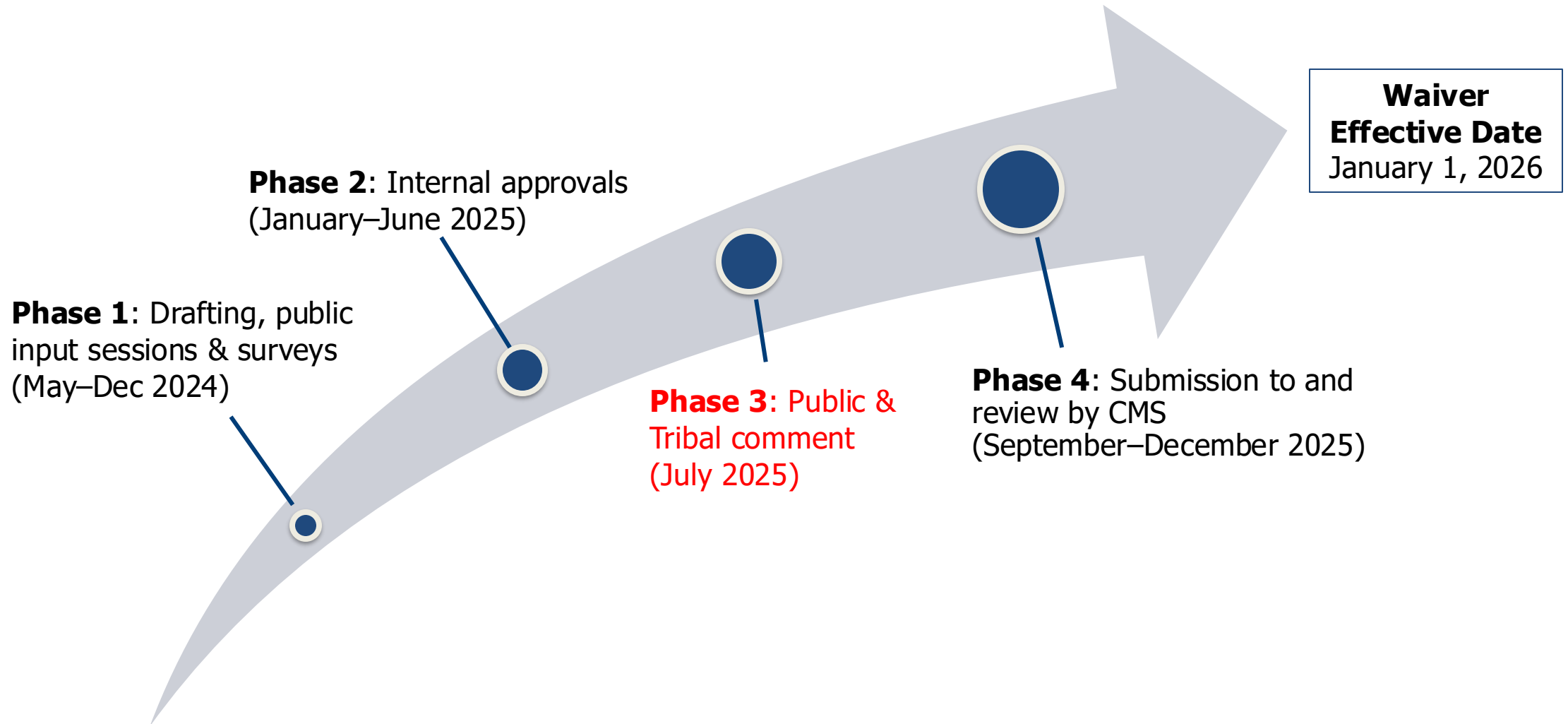
Key Changes

- **Clarification of roles, responsibilities, and terms in IRIS** – To enhance program integrity, make sure participants receive the most effective support, and avoid duplication of roles, clear definitions have been included.
 - Clarified support broker service definition to “provide support to participants about maintaining a variety of public assistance benefits (i.e., energy assistance programs, FoodShare, etc.).”
 - IRIS consultant agency (ICA) staff are required to meet all competency requirements.
 - Clarified self-direction based on CMS requirements, which include a person-centered planning process, a written plan, information and support, and required self-direction role and responsibilities.

Discussion

Questions?

Waiver Renewal Timeline



Next Steps

- Public comment period: July 9 – August 8, 2025
- Submit comments to DHS by:
 - Email: DHSDMSIRISRenewal@dhs.wisconsin.gov
 - Mail: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Medicaid Services
Bureau of Programs and Policy
Attn: IRIS 1915(c) Waiver Renewal
PO Box 309
Madison, WI 53701-0309
- Find more information on the IRIS waiver renewal webpage
www.dhs.wi.gov/iris/waiver-renewal.htm

Thank You!

www.dhs.wi.gov/iris/waiver-renewal.htm