

Andrea Barton Reeves, J.D.
Commissioner.

Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

September 15, 2026

Sen. Catherine Osten, Co-Chair
Rep. Toni E. Walker, Co-Chair
Sen. Heather Somers, Ranking Member
Rep. Tammy Nuccio, Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee

Sen. Matthew Lesser, Co-Chair
Rep. Jillian Gilchrest, Co-Chair
Sen. Jason Perillo, Ranking Member
Rep. Jay Case, Ranking Member
Human Services Committee

RE: Transmittal of Five-year Renewals of The Acquired Brain Injury I & Katie Beckett Waivers

Dear Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Committee Members:

In accordance with the provisions of section 17b-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Department respectfully seeks the committees' approval to submit renewal applications to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ("CMS") for the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) I Waiver and the Katie Beckett Waiver. Both waivers provide home and community-based Medicaid services, pursuant to section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. CMS requires states to renew all 1915(c) waivers every five years. The Department's authority to operate under the current waivers expires on December 31, 2026.

For the ABI I Waiver, DSS is proposing one substantive change: the addition of agency-based Personal Care Assistance ("PCA") as a waiver service. This service is currently offered under the Acquired Brain Injury II waiver and the proposed renewal would add this service option to the ABI I Waiver.

For the Katie Beckett Waiver, DSS is proposing several changes. In accordance with Public Act 25-42, the Department proposes changing the maximum age for waiver eligibility from 22 years old to 18 years of age, thereby increasing the number of individuals that can transition off the waiver's waitlist. The renewal application also includes language providing greater flexibility in the use of assessment tools and improving efficiency in delivery of case management services for the providers. In addition, language concerning entrance to the waiver has been revised to align with current practices.

Attached are the waiver renewal applications and the public notices that were published in the Connecticut Law Journal and on the DSS website on August 25, 2026, providing for a 30-day public comment period that will end on September 24, 2026. The documents were also distributed to representatives of the two federally recognized tribes. The tribes did not provide any comments.

The Department is also attaching three public comments that have been received as of the date of this letter. As the Department is transmitting these materials to the committees prior to the expiration of the public comment period, the Department will forward to the committees any additional comments that are received prior to the conclusion of the public comment period on September 24, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact Christine Weston, Director of Community Options Unit, at christine.weston@ct.gov.

Sincerely,



Andrea Barton Reeves
Commissioner, CT Department of Social Services

Cc: Adaline Strumolo, Director, Division of Health Services, DSS
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