



January 29, 2019

**To Parent(s), Caretaker Relatives, and Participants:**

**Re: Important Change to Children's 1915(c) Waiver Programs**

Our records show that you participate in one of the children's 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver program. This letter is to inform you that New York State is changing the way children will get HCBS.

**What is changing and when?**

The following waivers will be combined into one new Children's waiver:

- Office of Mental Health (OMH) Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) waiver
- Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Care at Home waiver
- Office of Children and Families (OCFS) Bridges to Health (B2H) SED waiver, B2H Developmental Disability (DD) waiver, and B2H Medically Fragile waiver

Your care coordinator will help move you to the new combined Children's waiver. You will still be able to get services you get today through the new Children's combined waiver.

After all children are moved to the new Children's combined waiver, the 1915(c) waivers listed above will close. This means the 1915(c) waiver you had will close March 31, 2019.

Special Note: If you are in the Department of Health Care at Home I/II 1915(c) waiver, your waiver is NOT closing. You will automatically be in the new combined Children's waiver. Your care coordinator will explain what this means for you and your family.

**Will my child's services change?**

Your child will still get the same services. However, you may experience some changes. For example, the name of the service may change. The way you can get the service may change. The way you get care management will change. Your child may have more service options. Your care coordinator will explain what these changes mean for you and your family.

**Why is New York making this change?**

Combining these waivers into one, means that New York State's Medicaid program will be able to give more service options to children. Eligible children may get some HCBS that they can't get now.

**What if I have questions?**

If you have questions about this change, please contact your care coordinator or call the Department of Health at 518-473-5569.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Allen, Director  
Division of Program Development & Management  
Office of Health Insurance Programs