

# A System that Works Better for People

# How we're improving

- The current service system developed one piece and one program at a time over the course of many years. As a result, it is complex and can be difficult to navigate
- DHS is working to simplify and modernize our system:
  - Ensuring people and their families have access to information that makes sense to them and helps them plan throughout their lives
  - Enhancing the assessment and support planning process
  - **Simplifying and modernizing the services available to people**

# Simplify and modernize services available to people

- Two studies were conducted in 2018 to identify system-level improvements for the disability waiver programs ([Legislative Report: Waiver Reimagine Project \(PDF\)](#))
- DHS received input from Minnesotans with disabilities, families, lead agencies and providers
- Some challenges identified through this engagement were:
  - Our system is complex
  - It feels like there is a lack of information
  - There can be inconsistency between and within lead agencies
  - There are limits on control, flexibility and the customization services

# Simplify and modernize: The Waiver Reimagine vision

Waiver Reimagine will improve the overall disability home and community-based waiver system so it's more **person-centered, easier to understand** and **simpler to navigate**.

Common  
service menu

Four disability  
programs  
replaced by two

Based on  
support needs,  
not diagnosis

Flexibility  
to self-direct

# Waiver Reimagine: A two-phased process

- **Phase I:** Streamline and simplify the service menu across the four disability waivers
  - Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, or upon federal approval, whichever is later, the streamlined service menu changes will go into effect
  - A simplified service menu will make programs more understandable and accessible for people and allow for consistent policies and procedures across populations for lead agencies and providers
- **Phase II:** Implement individual budgets and reconfigure the four current disability waiver programs into two

# Implementation

- Reshape four disability waivers into two new waivers and align service menus
  - Waiver amendments planned to be submitted in April/May 2020 with an effective date for implementation planned for Jan. 1, 2021
- Develop the final phases of Waiver Reimagine
  - DHS and Human Services Research Institute have a contract to conduct analysis and develop recommendations for implementation of an individual budget methodology
- Engage with stakeholders
  - DHS and The Improve Group have a contract to continue stakeholder engagement
  - Finalized communications plan
  - Plans for 30+ stakeholder engagement meetings across the state, with an emphasis on communities of color and American Indian and Indigenous people

# Project steps and timeline

## 2017-2018:

- We conducted extensive research and stakeholder engagement that informed the Waiver Reimagine legislative report and recommendations.

## 2019:

- Simplifying the service menu changes were passed into law.

## 2020:

- We are continuing to research reshaping the waivers, support ranges (individual budgets) and self-direction. We are conducting more stakeholder engagement events to inform policy and a second legislative report.

## 2021:

- Simplifying the service menu changes take effect Jan. 1, 2021. We will publish the second Waiver Reimagine legislative report with more detail on reshaping the waivers, support ranges (individual budgets) and self-direction.

## 2022 and beyond:

- After approval from the Legislature, we will submit plans to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Implementation will be in 2023 or later.

# Waiver Reimagine phase I: Simplifying the service menu

## Existing configuration

## Streamlined service

Corporate foster care  
Supported living services (SLS) corporate

Community residential services

Family foster care  
SLS family

Family residential services

Personal support  
Adult companion

Individualized home supports (without training)

Independent living skills, training  
Individualized home supports  
SLS (15-min. unit)

Individualized home supports (with training)

In-home family supports

Individualized home supports (with family training)

Day training and habilitation  
Structured day program

Day support services

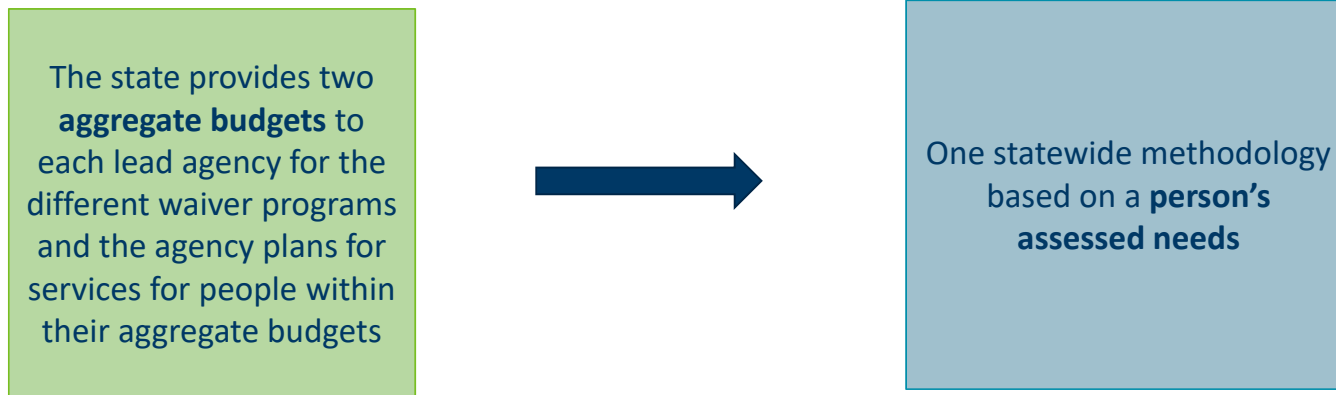


# Phase I implementation

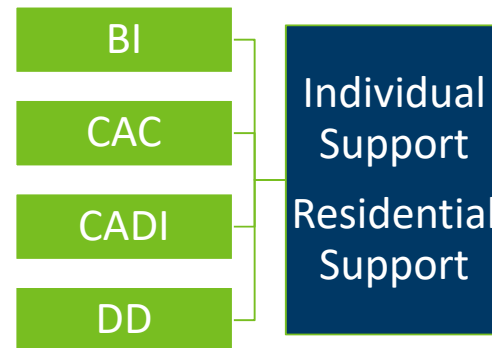
- Submitted waiver amendments to CMS in September 2020
- Updating technical systems and policy (completion expected mid-December)
- Creating online resources and tools to support people in understanding options, making informed decisions and planning for their lives
- Beginning rolling implementation Jan. 1, 2021, or upon federal approval, with new services expected to be authorized at a person's annual reassessment

# Waiver Reimagine phase II

- Develop an individual budget methodology based on a person's unique service and support needs



- Reshape the four waivers into two



# Benefits of Waiver Reimagine

- Simplify the waiver system while maintaining current levels of care and eligibility requirements
- Help people access the most appropriate services and supports
- Empower people with more flexibility and control over their services, including self-directed services options
- Provide equity to people across waiver programs

# Thank you!

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