

For WR Task Force & Scenario Work Group Review (July 2026)

These notes reflect the key points from the Waive Reimagine Task Force workgroup to be carried forward to the task force. (This is a working document.)

There are three primary areas:

- Budget exceptions
- Transitions between waivers
- Walk through scenarios (pending)

A: Budget exceptions (Draft for discussion)

Purpose

The budget exception process provides a structured pathway to request more resources when an individual's assessed budget is not expected to meet their support needs.

Draft process

MnCHOICES Assessment is completed, which determines waiver eligibility. Additional provider or facility information may still be needed.

1. The individual/family and case manager determine whether a budget exception should be pursued.
2. The case manager determines whether the request appears to meet established criteria.
3. If appropriate, required documentation is collected using a standardized list, known in advance.
4. DHS reviews the request using a decision framework. Additional information may be requested through the case manager.
5. If approved, the case manager is notified and communicates the decision to the participant, provider and support planner.
6. If denied, the rationale is documented, the service plan is revisited, alternative supports are explored and an appeal may be initiated.

Notes:

- Temporary or emergency budget exceptions may require more frequent renewals compared to annual budget exceptions.
- May need to clarify how MnCHOICES data will integrate with budget exception process.
- User portal (in development) may allow individuals to view budgets, track requests and support service planning.

Questions, requests and suggestions

- A. Establish and communicate the review criteria and decision guidelines. Clarify how budget exception decisions will be made.
- B. Clarify the roles of DHS, lead agencies, providers, support planners and case managers.
- C. Automatically submit (or require) budget exception applications for those served by “H” and “E” budget categories.
- D. Define the required documentation in advance to reduce unnecessary information requests (information chase) and conflicting guidance. Prefer to have a list of needed documentation and guidelines for what documentation is needed in what situations.
- E. Documentation should include provider input to assure a more complete picture
- F. Accelerate the participant-facing portal to track status of requests, streamline communication and reduce conflicting messages. This may also help to explain when case managers report “DHS said no.”
- G. Provide clear and thorough explanations for approvals and denials.
- H. Establish turnaround commitments/expectations.
- I. Deploy a process that avoids sequential delays. That is, where something resets the clock back to the “x number of days” review period including DHS, county and Tribal approval schedules to minimize delays to participants.
- J. Promote consistency across counties.
- K. Learn from jurisdictions where existing processes work well.
- L. Develop and deploy a formal, neutral and transparent appeal process. There are concerns about the neutrality of decision-makers (judges) in the existing process.

B: Transition between waivers

1. Transitions between waivers are a critical and delicate middle phase. How to best support and streamline this? [Establish Transition Sherpas?]
2. Have home care nursing assessments by PHN (county and tribes) as standard part of transition for hospital (CAC) level of care.
3. Have standardized work practices for different types of transitions.
4. Constraints on billing need to be reviewed and strategized around. (Concerns about double billing, reimbursements, etc.)
5. Consider how we work together — How to bring in the perspectives of those with lived experiences earlier, before the process is fully mapped out, to identify weak spots and possible glitches.
6. Fran to work with Calla on “How to” walk cases through drafted processes.
- ~~7. Fran to work with Calla on possibility of a Task Force/Expert Panel shared meeting.~~

C: Walk unidentified sample people through the WR system to find strengths, surprises and concerns

1. On hold pending new budget range numbers. (July)
2. Need support to deploy a process that protects PMI, even if aggregated.