

Waiver Reimagine Advisory Committee (WRAC)

June 2023 Discussion Guide

What is this document for?

The June WRAC meeting will focus on the work necessary for developing the policy and procedures for spending needs that exceed a person's assigned individual budgets. DHS must create a consistent, equitable and fiscally responsible policy to determine when to allow budget exceptions. During the WRAC meeting, we plan to discuss members' thoughts on future budget exceptions. This discussion will help identify any gaps in the proposed list of budget exception reasons compiled from stakeholders, internal partners and national research in recent months.

Below is a document that includes the necessary information and questions that will be asked during the meeting. We are providing this Word document for you to write your meeting questions and notes.

Proposed budget exceptions

Using feedback from previous WRAC meetings, discussions with lead agencies and DHS partners and other community engagements in recent years, DHS has compiled a list of proposed criteria for budget exceptions. This list reflects the real experiences of people with disabilities who currently fall outside the budget methodology.

- High/above average health or behavioral needs:
 - People requiring 1:1 or 2:1 staffing levels who are served in a provider-controlled setting; or
 - People requiring 2:1 staffing in an individual setting.
- **High/above average health or behavioral needs:** People requiring 2:1 staffing in an individual setting.
- **Emergency need:** People experiencing death or sudden loss of caregiver, temporary emergent relocation or another event causing a significant increase in the cost of services needed.
- **Age-based transition:** People 18 to 25 years old transitioning from parental home, youth foster care, shelter or similar setting to a more independent living setting.
- **Temporary transition:** People transitioning from a residential, hospital or other institution setting back to an individual setting.
- **Safety net:** People whose current supports and services need to be maintained with a required high level of care to ensure stability or endangerment protection for a person. This may or may not be tied to a previous higher support need.
- **24-hour staffing:** People with an established need for higher staffing in an individual setting to maintain their health and safety.

- **High need setting:** People whose needs haven't been adequately supported by customary staffing levels, or similarly: people who have not yet found a residence with adequate support or trained staff.
- **Employment utilization:** People who need more units of service than anticipated to reach their full community-based employment goals.

Discussion #1: Remaining questions about rates and budgets

Information to know: The February after-meeting evaluation survey found that members had outstanding questions or confusion about the difference between service rates and budgets. See slide 11 for information and visuals.

Question to consider: Any questions or confusion about rates and budgets you may have.

Discussion #2: Proposed exception types from members

Information: Below is a list of proposed additional exception types from members. We will discuss proposed items here or as they are proposed by members during discussion. For all information, please see slide 29 for member responses. Additionally, background on proposed budget exceptions on slides 26 and 27.

- Trauma informed care requiring expertise or training for provider
- Housing transition or disruption of service causing bump in need for period of time
- Cultural/language barriers
- Transportation
- Home/vehicle modifications
- Social/community integration
- Leave days
- Funds for unattainable state planned service allotment – unable to access due to lack of staff or providers. Requires use of waiver services to meet needs instead
- Health and wellness
- Overtime rates for staff
- Caregiver aging needs. Age of the person getting help and age of the person providing help impact the services.

Questions to consider: In reviewing the previous list of budget exception ideas, we invite members to elaborate on the budget exception items or propose new ones. Feel free to share stories of experience if that is helpful.

Discussion #3: Unclear exception reasons

Information: Below is a list of budget exceptions that members had questions or confusion about. For all information, please see slides 31 and 32.

- Emergency Need: clarification
 - Terminations automatic exception
- Temporary Transition definition: how long do these last?
- 24 hour with a focus on awake and asleep staffing
- High needs setting
- Safety Net
 - What does stability mean?
 - Examples

Question: Do you have any questions or confusion about these items or other budget exception types?

Discussion #4: What other comments or questions do you have?

Information: Given the conversation during the meeting or your preparations you may have outstanding questions around the types of budget exceptions that were not shared. This section is an open line to share what you haven't had the opportunity yet today on this topic.

Question: After having our discussion today, what outstanding questions or comments do you want to share with DHS and WRAC members on the topic of budget exceptions?