

Public Notice Summary: CMS HCBS Statewide Transition Plan

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued [initial approval](#) of Ohio's Statewide Transition Plan (STP) on June 2, 2016. Upon granting the initial approval, CMS provided additional feedback on areas where improvement is needed in order for the State to receive final approval of the statewide transition plan. The State's responses to CMS requests for additional information is documented in its entirety **Section VI: CMS's Initial Approval of Ohio's Statewide Transition Plan (pages 73-90)**. Examples of the additional information that has been incorporated into the STP include:

Site-specific setting assessment, validation, and remediation

Ohio Response: To ensure consistent implementation of the onsite assessment process, each state agency will adopt a single assessment instrument to evaluate all settings on an ongoing basis. All state personnel responsible for completing the assessment will be trained on the setting evaluation tool. The training strategies include web-based and in-person training on the completion of the HCBS Setting Tool, and types of evidence that could indicate barriers to community integration and access, and the types of evidence that indicate community integration and access is occurring.

Monitoring of settings

Ohio Response: The "Monitoring of Settings Process Description (referred to as Attachment #1) outlines the state processes for three scenarios: Settings Presumed to Be Compliance, Settings that may be compliant with modifications, and Settings that May required heightened scrutiny.

Heightened scrutiny

Ohio Response: The State will conduct on-site reviews using a settings evaluation tool it developed with input from stakeholders. Upon verifying that a setting meets one of the three prongs of settings presumed to have institutional qualities, the State will compile an evidentiary package to submit to CMS. **(See Attachment #1)**

As a component of the site-specific remediation plan, the provider will be asked to present evidence demonstrating the setting meets the HCBS setting criteria by providing any of the following:

- Proximity to community settings and activities using pictures or maps
- Access to public transportation or other transportation
- Scope, type and frequency of interactions with people not receiving services
- Staff training supporting integration and choice
- Explanations of how the facility supports the individual in selecting and participating in community activities

- Statements from individuals and guardians regarding experiences and participation in activities of their own choosing
- Statements from members of the community describing his/her experience with how the setting is integrated into the broader community;
- Photographs of the setting.

The final state agency site visit may include the following:

- Review of schedules and activities
- Review of service plans
- Evaluation of access to community and transportation options
- Observations of setting
- Interviews of individuals, guardians, family members and staff.

Once all site visits are complete and evidence prepared, the State will update the statewide transition plan, naming all providers remaining in Category III, and will facilitate a public comment process as outlined in the statewide transition plan milestone document.