

**County of Orange Social Services Agency  
Family Self-Sufficiency & Adult Services Division**

**Program/Area:** Adult Services/In-Home Supportive Services  
**Title:** Home and Community Based Alternatives Waiver Policy  
**Number:** 1049 **Status:** Final  
**Effective Date:** 9/16/2026 **Revision Date:** N/A  
**Approved:** Signature on file

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**PURPOSE** To provide In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) staff guidelines regarding Home and Community Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver and Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS) regulations.

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**POLICY** The HCBA Waiver covers a wide range of direct and indirect care services, including Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS). The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) administers the HCBA Waiver program, primarily through contracted HCBA Waiver agencies.

Counties are responsible for:

- Informing DHCS or Waiver Agency staff of the personal care service hours currently authorized for a recipient, including the specific task categories associated with the approved IHSS hours.
  - Determining IHSS eligibility for those not currently authorized for services.
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**BACKGROUND** The HCBA Waiver is a continuation of the Nursing Facility/Acute Hospital (NF/AH) Waiver and was approved by the federal government's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

WPCS is also a waiver benefit previously available through the In-Home Operations (IHO) Waiver and all participants were transitioned to the HCBA waiver.

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**DEFINITIONS** **Alternative Resources** - Alternative resources are supportive services, which may be available from other agencies or programs to meet the needs of the recipient, as assessed.

**HCBA Waiver Agencies** – Private contracted agencies responsible for providing local waiver administration functions and delivering the Comprehensive Care Management Waiver services.

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## **INTRA-AGENCY COLLABORATION**

The HCBA Waiver provides care management services to persons at risk for nursing home or institutional placement. The HCBA Waiver covers a wide range of direct and indirect care services, including Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS). WPCS provides coverage for specific tasks that are not covered by the IHSS hours. As a part of the eligibility for WPCS, individuals must be eligible for and currently receiving IHSS. Under the HCBA waiver, a recipient may be authorized for up to 24 hours per day of direct care, which may include a combination of IHSS, WPCS, and in-home nursing.

The Waiver Agency must coordinate with the county if the recipient is also receiving IHSS hours to ensure that the total direct care hours authorized by any source do not exceed 24 hours per day. County IHSS staff must coordinate with DHCS/Waiver Agency staff to make sure eligible recipients receive the WPCS they qualify for. IHSS staff must share case information so the Waiver Agency can decide how many WPCS hours to authorize. IHSS staff can also ask the Waiver Agency for a list of shared (mutual) recipients.

A Release of Information (ROI) is not required when IHSS and DHCS/Waiver Agency staff share relevant information about mutual recipients. IHSS staff can help recipients who may need WPCS by referring them to DHCS or to the Waiver Agency for their county. Anyone who asks about WPCS should be referred for an eligibility review.

To qualify for WPCS under the HCBA waiver, a person must be enrolled in IHSS and receiving IHSS services. For more information about HCBA, visit the Department of Health Care Services website.

IHSS must not categorize any services provided through the HCBA Waiver, including WPCS hours, as an Alternative Resource. Additionally, IHSS hours cannot be denied or reduced because an individual is eligible for or receives WPCS.

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## **REFERENCES**

All County Letter 17-95 Clarification of Protective Supervision Proration, Environmental Modifications, Fall Risk, and Combative Behavior Issues

All County Letter 21-154 Information and Instructions Regarding the Home and Community Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver and Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS)

Welfare and Institution Codes

- 14132.95
- 14132.97