



Extension Agreement Overview

On May 18, 2016, the State of Georgia and the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) agreed to an Extension of Settlement Agreement modifying the original terms of the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Settlement.

This document serves a summary of the extension agreement between the State of Georgia and the DOJ. The summary is not a legal document. In the interest of readability and space, some of the implementation details have been left out. To read the full details, please see the [extension agreement](#) itself.

The extension agreement represents an acknowledgement by the DOJ of the state's compliance with the majority of provisions in the original ADA settlement agreement. The work outlined in the extension is a reflection of many of the existing strategic priorities of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).

Developmental Disabilities

Transitions from State Hospitals to the Community

- 25 hospital-to-community transitions via Comprehensive Supports (COMP) Waiver by June 30, 2016
- Create and maintain a prioritized planning list between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2018, for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in state hospitals who are appropriate for community placement
- Conduct transitions at a reasonable pace using COMP waivers
- Serve all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities remaining in state hospitals on June 30, 2018, in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs

High Risk Surveillance List

- Maintain a "high-risk surveillance list" to monitor all individuals transferred under the terms of the settlement agreement and extension agreement

Statewide Clinical Oversight

- Implement statewide clinical oversight in all of DBHDD's service regions

Support Coordination

- Revise, implement, and monitor the roles and responsibilities of support coordinators by July 1, 2016
- Implement a statewide, uniform tool for support coordination by July 1, 2016
- Annually assess the performance of agencies providing support coordination services for DBHDD
- Cap caseload at 40 individuals for support coordinators and 20 individuals for intensive support coordinators
- At least one in-person visit per month by support coordinators for each individual in their caseload (one per quarter for people only who only receive supported employment or day services)
- Monthly visits by intensive support coordinators, unless more frequent visits are required to support an individual's needs

Crisis Respite Homes

- Maximum of four individuals per home
- Track length of stay; explain any barriers to discharge (applicable only when an individual remains in a crisis respite home more than 30 days)
- Develop plan for restructuring developmental disability crisis system by June 30, 2017

Provider Recruitment

- Implement and develop a strategic plan for provider recruitment within six months of effective date of agreement

Additional Home and Community-Based Services Waivers

- Fund 300 New Options Waivers (NOW) and 375 COMP Waivers between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2018, as follows:
 - FY 2016: 100 NOW and 100 COMP waivers
 - FY 2017: 100 NOW and 125 COMP waivers
 - FY 2018: 100 NOW and 150 COMP waivers

Investigations, Mortality Reviews, Risk Management, and Quality Reviews

- Implement a process for reporting, investigating, and addressing deaths and critical incidents
- Monthly review of all unexpected deaths by DBHDD's Community Mortality Review Committee (CMRC) to result in corrective actions

- Generate a monthly report of community deaths to be submitted to the DOJ and the Independent Reviewer, for the purpose of quality improvement
- Develop quality improvement initiatives for community services based on state and national mortality data and CMRC reports
- Publish annual mortality report
- Internal risk management and quality improvement programs developed by support coordination agencies and community providers

Serious and Persistent Mental Illness

Bridge Funding and Georgia Housing Voucher Program (GHVP)

- FY 2016:
 - Provide bridge funding for at least 300 people in the target population
 - Provide GHVP to 358 people in the target population
- FY 2017:
 - Provide bridge funding for at least 300 people in the target population
 - Provide GHVP to 275 people in the target population

Supported Housing

- Capacity to provide housing supports for anyone in the target population who has an assessed need for such support, by June 30, 2018
- Implement a memorandum of agreement between DBHDD and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to coordinate supported housing efforts
- Implement procedures for supported housing referrals for target population upon discharge of state hospitals, jails, prisons, emergency departments, or homeless shelters

General Provisions

- Elizabeth Jones will remain as the Independent Reviewer throughout extension agreement
- The Independent Reviewer will issue compliance reports semi-annually