

FACT SHEET

Office of Mental Retardation Provider Qualification Pilot Program

Background:

Historically, counties have been responsible for the qualification of Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support Waiver providers using the process and standards in the approved Waivers. In March 2005, in response to the request for a renewal of the Consolidated Medicaid Waiver, the Office of Mental Retardation (OMR) received correspondence from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) asking for evidence that waiver providers are qualified using consistent statewide standards. To promote consistency among the Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support Waiver service providers, OMR developed a set of qualification standards based on stakeholder workgroup recommendations.

What's next?

OMR has decided to pilot the new statewide provider qualifications process. MR Bulletin 00-06-07 entitled, "*Provider Qualification Pilot Program*", explains the new program.

What does pilot mean?

Pilot means OMR will be testing the provider qualification process to evaluate a number of things:

- The clarity of the questions in the application.
- The ability to measure the criteria.
- The electronic application.
- Submission of documents by the provider to support the qualification standards.
- A standardized process to review documents.
- The six criteria areas.
- Timelines and other related areas regarding completion of the applications.
- Timelines and other related areas for completion of the review of documents.

Information collected and evaluated during the pilot will be used by OMR to steer the statewide Provider Qualification process that will become mandatory based on a rollout plan starting in July 2007. To assist in the evaluation, OMR will convene an external workgroup representative of all interested stakeholders.

What are the benefits of a pilot year?

For providers in the pilot sample:

- Opportunity to offer input and feedback.
- Grandfather in when process becomes mandatory, if no additional criteria are added to the mandatory process.

- Gain status as one of the first qualified providers.

For OMR service system:

- Opportunity to test and evaluate the new Provider Qualification system before it is implemented statewide.

What is included within the bulletin and the attachments?

- A general description of the six qualification criteria:
 - Service Related Training---knowledge and skills needed to provide services
 - Quality Management---a quality framework and methodology
 - Operations Data Management---mechanics providers have in place to support continued fiscal stability
 - Affidavits and Assurances---standard conditions of doing business as a provider in PA
 - Policies and Procedures---basic policies and practices for health and safety
 - Staff and Agency Qualifications---minimum standards that must be met by people to perform a given service
- An attachment that describes the supporting documents for the Provider Qualification pilot process.
- An invitation to providers to volunteer to participate in the pilot.
- If interested, the provider is asked to complete the attached application form and submit it by May 15, 2006.
- Provider volunteers will be notified of OMR's selection by June 1.

During the pilot year what else is happening?

Counties/Administrative Entities will qualify waiver providers using the provider qualification standards in the current Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support Waivers. Counties/Administrative Entities must contract with any qualified provider that has a signed Medicaid Agreement with the State if:

- an individual in either waiver requests the services of the provider,
- the provider agrees to serve the person, and
- the provider costs for the service are consistent with efficiency, economy, and are adequate to provide quality of care.

What if I have questions about this?

Beth Hovenstine is the OMR implementation lead. Your questions can be addressed by using a special e-mail address: ra-omrproviderqualif@state.pa.us or by calling the OMR customer service number at 1-888-565-9435.