

Individualized Skills and Socialization Frequently Asked Questions

In 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued regulations governing the settings in which Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) are provided. To comply with the regulations, HHSC will replace existing day habilitation services in the Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD), Home and Community-based Services (HCS), and Texas Home Living (TxHmL) waiver programs with a new service for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This new, more integrated service is called Individualized Skills and Socialization.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is committed to sharing pertinent information about the Individualized Skills and Socialization services program with service providers via this regularly updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document.

This FAQ document was revised on 04/26/2022.

With each update, new questions will be identified with the date that they were added. If guidance changes, it will be identified in red font as added or deleted text. Questions regarding these FAQs can be directed to Long-term Care Regulatory Policy and Rules at 512-438-3161 or LTCRPolicy@hhs.Texas.gov.

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Date	Change	Comments

Acronyms

- DAHS – Day Activity Health Services
- DBMD – Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities
- HHSC – Health and Human Services Commission
- HCS - Home & Community-based Services
- IDD - Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities
- LTCR – Long-term Care Regulation
- TULIP - Texas Unified Licensure Information Portal
- TxHmL – Texas Home Living

Rules

When will HHSC engage with stakeholders to receive and incorporate feedback into the rules prior to adoption?

HHSC is conducting ongoing meetings with stakeholder groups and will post rules for informal and formal comment during the rulemaking process.

Will IDD providers have at least 6 months to prepare for the transition from day habilitation to individualized skills and socialization?

Providers may begin preparing for the transition now, but rules will not be effective until November. The license application process will be available in either November or December.

How much time will providers have to prepare for transition to individualized skills and socialization services if the license application process is not ready by November or December?

Providers may begin preparing for the transition throughout the year as HHSC provides additional information about the new service.

Licensure and Program Requirements

If we currently offer day habilitation services through our HCS program, will we be required to obtain the individualized skills and socialization services license?

Yes, providers will need to have a DAHS license to provide Individualized Skills and Socialization services. This service replaces day habilitation for the HCS, TxHmL, and DBMD programs.

Will a license be required per agency (component code) or per location of the site where services will be provided? For example: If I have 3 day habilitation sites, will I need 3 licenses?

Each physical location will require its own license and application process.

When can current day habilitation providers apply for license?

The license application process will be available near the end of the calendar year.

Will the license process require a survey before the license is issued?

An initial inspection is required prior to licensure.

Would current DAHS providers provide these new services and carry multiple licenses?

A current DAHS provider that wants to provide individualized skills and socialization services must obtain a second license specific to the individualized skills and socialization category. Both licenses and services have separate requirements.

Will day habilitation sites be considered DAHS facilities or independent skills and socialization skills facilities?

A provider that obtains the new license will be a provider licensed by HHSC as a DAHS to provide individualized skills and socialization services.

How long will it take to complete and be approved for the licensure through TULIP when it becomes available?

The amount of time for the licensure process is dependent on multiple variables, including the completeness of the application, the responsiveness of the applicant related to deficiencies in the application, and the time related to having a successful survey. HHSC is dedicated to allocating resources to the initial licensure process to mitigate these variables.

Which, if any, DAHS requirements will apply to individualized skills and socialization providers?

The LTCR requirements for individualized skills and socialization providers are based on the requirements for DAHS providers, the specifics of which will be outlined in rule. However, individualized skills and socialization providers will be exempted from most requirements outside of the scope of service. Such exemptions will be clearly noted in rule.

Inspections, Surveys, and Visits

If I run a public day habilitation program with multiple different providers attending, I have HHSC HCS surveyors at my location multiple times per year. Does this mean I also now have a DAHS survey?

HHSC inspects a DAHS facility at least once every two years after the initial inspection. HHSC will continue to conduct survey functions for the waiver programs. A provider that holds more than one license or certification will be surveyed according to the requirements for each.

Will the survey process for DAHS change anything in the HCS and TxHmL survey process? For example: would the onsite inspection for the licensure for DAHS replace onsite inspection of the facilities that occurs during the HCS or TxHmL survey process?

Each survey process will survey for different requirements based on the program. HHSC will continue to evaluate practices with the goals of efficiency and limiting the burden to providers.

Does the provider who contracts with the individualized skills and socialization services provider have any responsibilities?

LTCR has not changed any existing regulatory certification principle requirements for the HCS and TxHmL waiver providers contracting with individualized skills and socialization providers. HCS and TxHmL waiver providers continue to be responsible for oversight of contracted service providers.

Training

How will HHCS provide information to providers about the transition of day habilitation services to individualized skills and socialization?

HHSC plans to continue providing information to providers via webinars and other formats. HHSC will work to ensure these conversations include staff from multiple HHSC departments. HHSC developed the [Individualized Skills and Socialization provider page](#), an online source of information for providers of individualized skills and socialization.

How will providers receive training for individualized skills and socialization?

HHSC will develop training related to applying for the DAHS individualized skills and socialization license and the regulatory standards providers must comply with. Training will include a computer-based training that individualized skills and socialization service providers will complete. The provider will upload documentation of the completed training in their application. HHSC will also offer optional training on how to use the TULIP system.

Resources

[Individualized Skills and Socialization | Texas Health and Human Services](#)

[Day Activity & Health Services \(DAHS\) | Texas Health and Human Services](#)

[Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities \(DBMD\) | Texas Health and Human Services](#)

[Home & Community-based Services \(HCS\) | Texas Health and Human Services](#)

[Texas Home Living \(TxHmL\) | Texas Health and Human Services](#)

[Provider Training | Texas Health and Human Services](#)