

Integrated Settings and Sheltered Workshops

In January 2014, the federal government issued a set of rules that apply to sheltered workshops.

The rules only apply to individuals receiving services through a Medicaid waiver.

CMS (The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) is the part of the federal government that issued the rules.

The rule also says that people receiving waiver services must be given the opportunity to receive those services in an integrated setting that supports full access to the community.

This means that settings must **offer** opportunities to actively participate in community events, activities, or employment options that are of interest to persons and generally available in the community.

All providers of waiver services, including day programs or workshops, are required to **offer** these opportunities and to provide the support needed for individuals to participate.

Individuals are not required to participate in community-based activities, if they are not interested in doing so.

This rule does **not** require workshops to close.

It does require all waiver providers to provide opportunities that support full access to the local community.



It is important to note that other factors unconnected to the CMS rule, like fewer people choosing a workshop, have led to the closure or consolidation of some workshops.

The Department of Developmental Disabilities asked CMS for more time to come into compliance with this part of the rule.

To date, the Department's request for additional time has not been approved.