



2025 LA PLUS Project

Pilot of the new LA PLUS assessment
(A component of the eISP system)

12/17/2024

2025 LA PLUS Project



The new LA PLUS

- Comprehensive needs-based assessment & support planning tool
 - Part of eISP planning system:
 - LA PLUS Assessment + Person-Centered Discovery + Individual Support Plan = eISP
 - *Note: At this time, we are only piloting the LA PLUS assessment component of the eISP, not the eISP in its entirety*
 - Developed over several years with input from service providers, medical and allied health professionals, behavioral health professionals
 - Assesses support needs, risks, priorities, desired outcomes in all 'Life Areas'
 - Fully electronic with built-in error detection and guidance/suggestions given
 - Designed to be used for all ages, all waivers

2



The new LA PLUS

- Web-based: eISP application requires internet connection
 - Assessment and Plan are completed simultaneously: Assessment info automatically feeds into Plan; Action Plan component completed separately by Team
 - eISP records (Assessment + PC Discovery + Plan) are stored in a database, with the option to upload and store other related documents
 - Don't have to start over with blank assessment/plan at annual planning: Use existing eISP record from previous year and build on it.
 - eISP application automatically generates additional 'reports': will replace the need for creating separate service provider plans or EPOC 'attachments' (once all of eISP is implemented).
 - Anyone can be granted access to view eISP records (with permission of participant & assigned username/password)
- Administration of the LA PLUS is not a rigid protocol, but a *conversation*
- Meets all requirements of person-centered planning/documentation per CMS Settings Rule

3

Why the changes?

- The OCDD planning process is in need of changes
 - To support a better person-centered planning approach
 - To empower people: putting them in charge of their own plans and services
 - To assist people in building better lives
 - To improve the service system for current and future participants
- Other reasons:
 - Improved efficiency with assessment and planning
 - Greater accuracy and consistency of information across all documents
 - Make data collection and information-sharing easier and faster for support coordinators, service providers, and LGE's.
 - Allows for quick analyses of needs, preferences, & outcomes, to assess service utilization, identify trends/patterns in service usage, & plan for future services
 - To be in compliance with CMS requirements of a person-centered planning process

12/17/2024

2025 LA PLUS Project

4

How will the pilot work?

- A few hundred participants chosen to participate (based off of current EPOC annual planning dates)
 - Participants chosen from all waivers
 - Participants are all ages and with varying differences in support needs and services
- Assessors hired solely to complete assessments
 - All assessors have at least a Bachelor's degree; most are graduate students or already have a Master's degree
 - All assessors have 'people skills' and are currently working/have worked in human services fields (social work/teaching/behavioral health treatment)
 - Assessors will receive specialized training and ongoing supervision to ensure assessments are thorough and accurate
 - Each assessor is provided a list of participants within a specified location to assess
 - Assessors will devote approximately 8-9 hours per assessment, but more if needed

12/17/2024

2025 LA PLUS Project

5

What Does the Assessment Process Look Like?

- Over the next year, assessors will:
 - 1) Review records about person & integrate this info into LA PLUS (previous EPOC, service/treatment plans, progress notes, evaluations, IEP's/405 plans, hospital records, court records, etc.)
 - 2) Contact participant (and family) to schedule an assessment conversation/interview
 - 3) Meet with participant and others at participant's home (or other suitable location) to have a conversation/interview about wants, needs, desires in multiple areas of life
 - 4) May conduct follow-up conversations with service providers not present at the interview (to ensure all necessary information is obtained)
 - 5) Enter all relevant info into the LA PLUS assessment
 - 6) Provide LA PLUS findings to all: Participant, support coordinator, service provider(s), LGE

12/17/2024

2025 LA PLUS Project

6

What is the Support Coordinator's Role?

- Communication: Assist assessor with disseminating information to others, and sharing information with assessor as needed
- Email all available, relevant records/documents to assessor & request additional records from service providers, schools, facilities, as needed
- Meeting with participants/families:
 - Introduce the new LA PLUS process to participants/families: Highlight the reasons for it and the benefits of it **(this is really important!)**
 - Provide participants/families with the assessor's contact information
 - Get list (from participants/families) of available days/times for meeting with assessor & verify meeting location
 - Get names and contact info of most appropriate respondents (w/ consideration of participant preference and in-depth knowledge of participant)

12/17/2024

2025 LA PLUS Project

7

What is the Support Coordinator's Role?

- Assist participants/families to complete Release of Information forms (for assessor's follow-up with service providers, health/beh. health providers)
- Give participants/families info about complaint/grievance process & review participant rights/responsibilities in HCBS pertaining to planning process
- Email list of available times, list of respondents (and contact info), and meeting location to assessor
- Conduct person-centered discovery with participants/families: POA, person-centered tools, etc
- Once LA PLUS results are received, review info with participant/family as needed, begin creating a new EPOC with this info
 - Template of new EPOC with assessment info to be provided
- Coordinate and conduct team planning meetings as usual (send draft to team members prior to meeting, review plan elements in meeting, finalize EPOC)

12/17/2024

2025 LA PLUS Project

8


What is the Provider's Role?

- Communication: Assist assessor with disseminating information to others, and sharing information with assessor as needed
- May be requested to email certain documents to assessor (for record review)
- May assist participants in choosing staff (that know participant really well) to serve as respondents
- PCA provider: May need to provide transportation to meeting location and/or support during LA PLUS conversation/interview with assessor
- Be available for follow-up questions from assessor (after LA PLUS convo/interview)
- Make sure that participant/family gets copy of assessment results (if no email access)

12/17/2024

2025 LA PLUS Project

9



Thank you!

- For more information about assessment or assessors: contact Kacey.Stevens@la.gov
- For more information about SC responsibilities within planning: contact Lavasha.Gordon@la.gov

12/17/2024

2025 LA PLUS Project

10
