9525.0996 DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

Subpart 1. **Request for demonstration projects.** A county board may submit a written request to the commissioner to demonstrate alternative methods of providing semi-independent living services. Counties may request a variance from the licensing and contract requirements under parts 9525.0900 to 9525.1000 as a part of the proposed demonstration project. Requests for a demonstration project must contain documentation of the following information:

A. a description of the services to be provided;

B. eligibility criteria for participation in the demonstration project;

C. the portion of the county's SILS allocation to be attributed to the demonstration project;

D. assurances of health and safety for the participants;

E. assurances that the services will result in the participants' increased independence;

F. assurances that the services will be provided in compliance with applicable state and federal law; and

G. methods for evaluating the effectiveness of the services.

Subp. 2. Approval of demonstration projects. The commissioner's approval of a request for a demonstration project must be based on the following conditions:

A. services provided under the demonstration project must meet the individual needs and preferences of participants;

B. the demonstration project must ensure that services will be delivered in the least restrictive environment;

C. the request must be submitted according to subpart 1; and

D. the demonstration project must comply with state and federal laws governing services to persons with developmental disabilities.

Subp. 3. Agreement to participate in a demonstration project. A county board approved to participate in a demonstration project under this part must obtain the agreement of each participant that will receive services under the approved demonstration project. The agreement must specify the terms of the demonstration project, the portions of parts 9525.0900 to 9525.1020 to be varied, and the manner in which services will be delivered. The agreement must be in writing and must be signed by the affected participant and the participant's legal representative before services are provided under the demonstration project.

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