

Alaska interRAI Project Presentation



February 2026

What are Home and Community Based Services?

- Supportive care programs that assist people with disabilities, chronic conditions or older adults to receive care and remain in their own homes and communities rather than institutional settings like Nursing Homes.
- Examples of services:
 - Personal care services
 - Group Home
 - Employment services
 - Respite
 - Meals

Number of people served in SFY 2025

- Personal Care Services – 1335
- Community First Choice – 846
- Alaskans Living Independently waiver – 2594
- Children with complex medical conditions waiver – 249
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver – 2138
- Individualized Supports waiver – 575
- Adults with Physical and Developmental Disabilities waiver - 183

Background

- Work done in the past
- Stakeholder involvement and decision
- Waitlist Eradication Report (2022)
- Advocacy efforts

The role of Assessments in HCBS?

- Alaska's State Medicaid program provides Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) to approximately 8000 recipients. HCBS includes personal care services and Medicaid waiver services.
- HCBS services are funded by both state and federal funds (50:50) split except for Community First Choice.
- States must use a standardized assessment instrument to determine eligibility and need.
- Current assessment tools, Consumer Assessment Tool (CAT) and Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP).
- A growing number of States use the interRAI Home Care or another interRAI instrument to establish eligibility and guide care planning for people using HCBS.



Background and Business Need

- Lack of standardization makes it difficult to compare data and ensure equitable, person-centered service planning.
- Enhanced person-centered planning is essential for home and community-based services (HCBS).
- The project supports improved health, safety, and welfare outcomes for SDS beneficiaries.
- Modernization aligns with CMS, federal, and state initiatives promoting integrated, data-driven Medicaid systems.

What is interRAI?

- interRAI is an international nonprofit collaborative that develops research-based assessment tools.
- These tools help collect consistent information about a person's needs, goals, and preferences to support service planning and decision-making.
- The interRAI assessment tools are tested for accuracy and consistency and are used in many states and countries.
- States contract with a software vendor to configure the interRAI tools in a computerized system.

Why is Alaska Implementing interRAI?

- Stakeholder support for a more modernized system.
- Advances SDS's vision of a sustainable, person-centered long-term services and supports (LTSS) system.
- Empowers older adults and individuals with disabilities to live independently and make informed choices.
- Strengthens coordination of care across programs and providers.
- Ensures compliance with federal reporting standards and national best practices.
- Enhances data collection, analytics, and quality improvement capabilities statewide.

Support for the Project

- CMS funding for planning and software
- HCBS Strategies – technical assistance and interRAI fellow support
- Mon Ami – Software vendor

Project Life Cycle and Major Milestones



2026

Home Care Tool: testing, training, and soft launch. ID & ChYMH-DD tool design and development begins.

2025

Automation Vendor procured, CMS approval and funding for implementation activities received, Home Care Tool design and development, Resource Allocation foundational work begins.

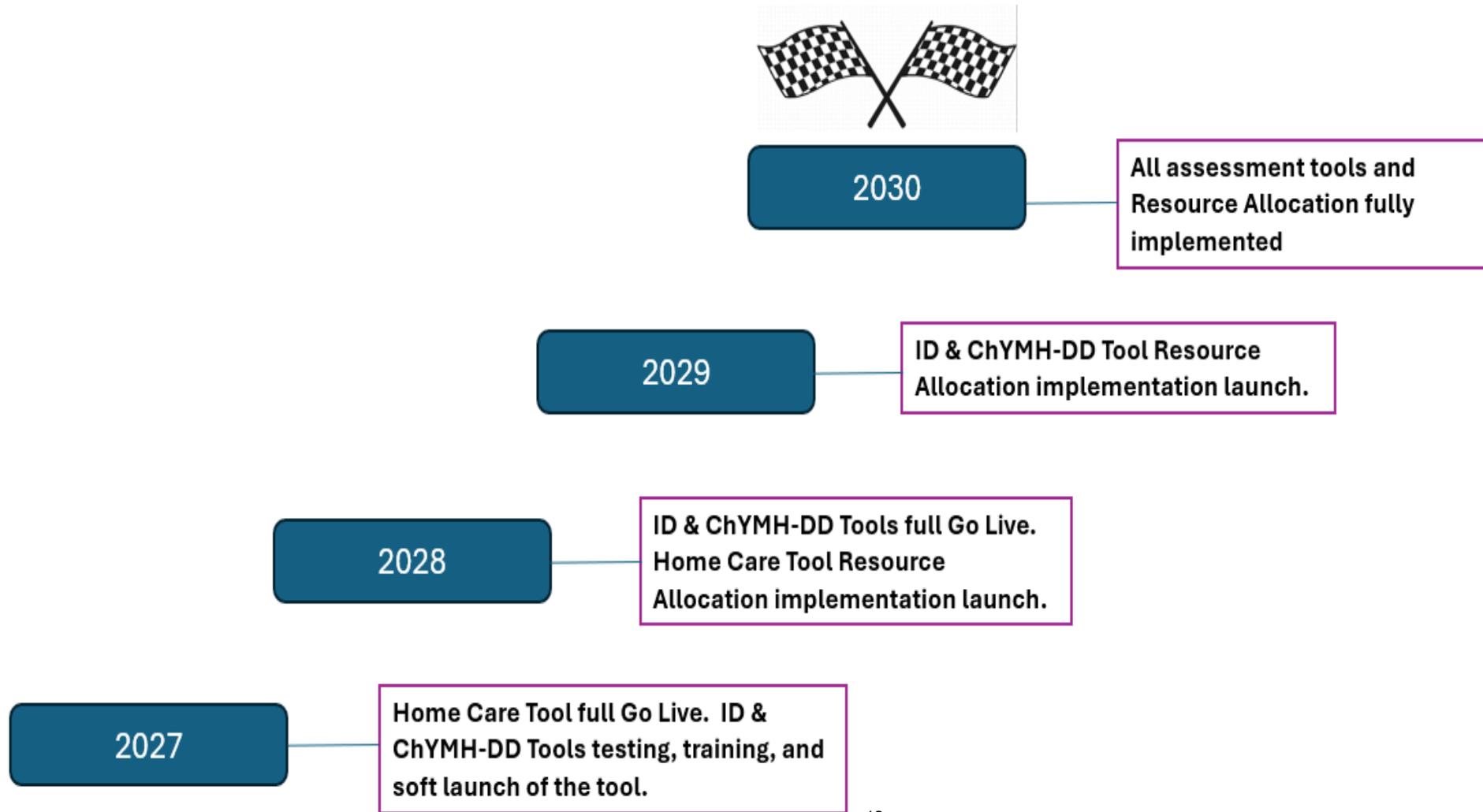
2024

Technical Assistance contractor procured, Project Planning Phase officially began with CMS approval.

2023

Project Exploratory Phase began, research on tools, demos from technology vendors, information gathering from CMS.

Project Life Cycle and Major Milestones

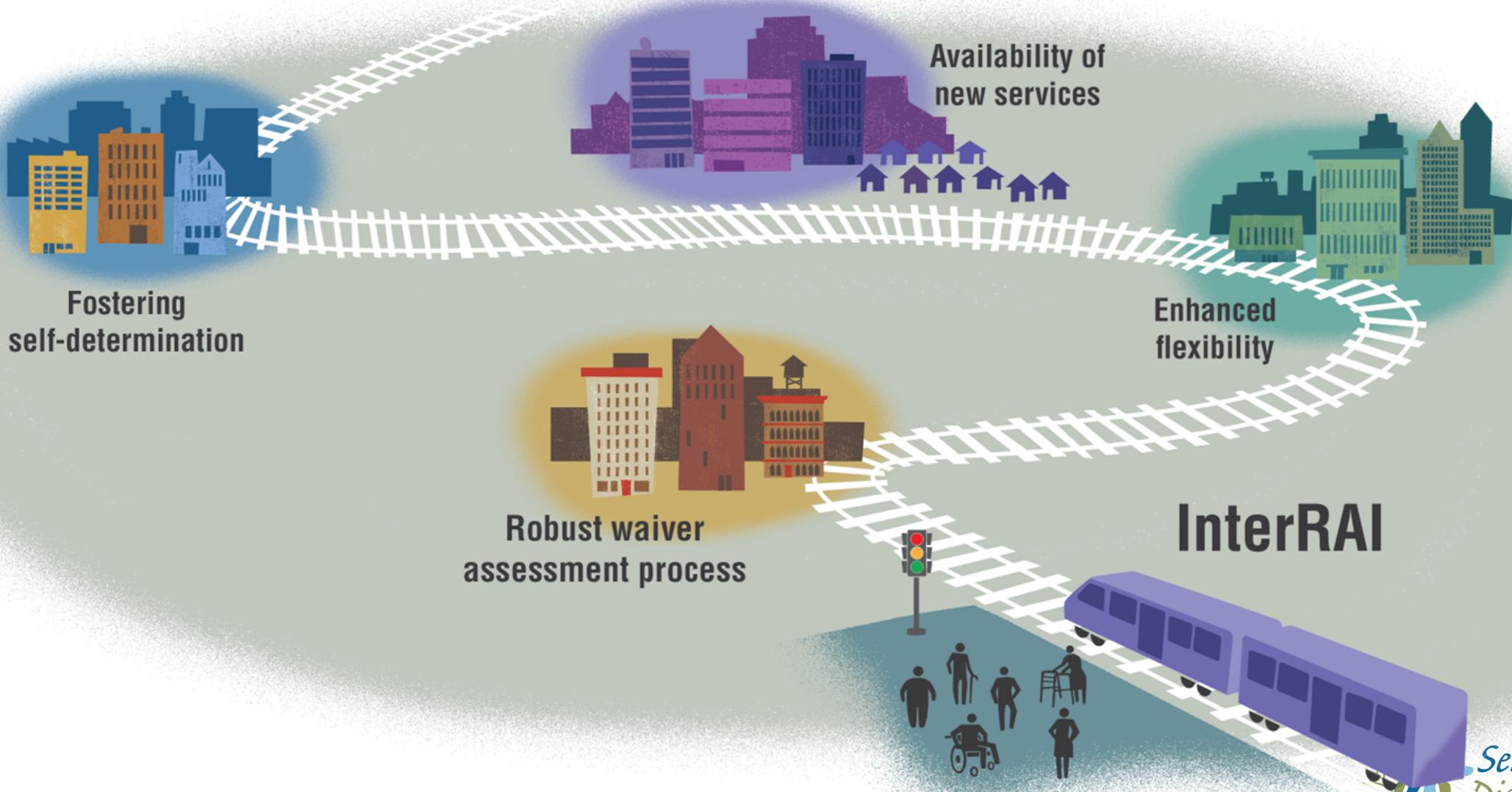


Regulation Work

- Regulation updates are in progress and are a key project dependency.
- Steps include drafting, review, and required public process activities.

Next Steps

- Finalizing the Alaska Home Care Assessment Tool.
- Developing the ID Tools for children and adults specific to Alaska.
- Testing and readiness activities leading up to go-live, slated for Winter 2026.
- Continued stakeholder engagement.
- Progressing through regulatory steps and implementation alignment.



InterRAI