



Montana Section 1115 Healing And Ending Addiction Through Recovery And Treatment

Public Hearing on December 15, 2023

Section 1115 HEART Demonstration Amendment Request Summary

On November 29, 2023, the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) released for public comment an amendment to the Section 1115 Healing and Ending Addiction through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Demonstration Waiver.¹ Current federal law prohibits the use of federal Medicaid financing for care provided to patients in mental health Institutions of Mental Disease (IMDs).²

The Section 1115 HEART Demonstration amendment request seeks federal reimbursement for stays by children and youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED)³ at Institutions of Mental Disease (IMDs) that are also Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs).

Section 1115 HEART Demonstration Amendment Goals

DPHHS is pursuing this amendment request to better address behavioral health needs of Montana Medicaid and achieve the following goals:

- Provide behavioral health treatment and recovery services for children and youth with SED;
- Improve outcomes and quality of care for children and youth with behavioral health needs receiving residential and inpatient care;
- Increase rates of identification, initiation, and engagement in behavioral health treatment;
- Enhance availability of outpatient services and residential or inpatient services; and,
- Strengthen care coordination and linkages to community-based behavioral health services following discharges from emergency departments and residential inpatient facilities.

Covered Populations

Children and youth up to age 21 who are:

- Diagnosed with SED;
- Staying in an IMD that is classified as a QRTP; and,
- Otherwise eligible to receive full Medicaid benefits.

¹ <https://dphhs.mt.gov/heartwaiveramendment/>

² Under existing federal regulations at 42 C.F.R. 435.1010, an IMD is defined as “a hospital, nursing facility, or other institution of more than 16 beds that is primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment or care of persons with mental diseases, including medical attention, nursing care and related services.”

³ Childhood SED is defined as the presence of a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder that results in the functional impairment which interferes with or limits the child’s role or function in family, school or community activities.



Other Section 1115 HEART Demonstration Updates

- On October 1, 2021, Montana submitted the underlying Section 1115 HEART Demonstration request to CMS seeking:
 - Medicaid coverage for additional services and supports for individuals with behavioral health needs including: evidence-based stimulant use disorder treatment, tenancy supports, and targeted reentry services for justice-involved individuals in the 30 days pre-release.
 - Federal reimbursement for Medicaid services provided to short-term residents of IMDs obtaining treatment for substance use disorder and serious mental illness.
- On July 1, 2022, DPHHS received CMS approval for its SUD IMD Demonstration request.
- DPHHS continues to work with CMS towards approval of the other requests for services to support individuals with behavioral health needs.
- The Department is seeking an amendment to the current Demonstration, which is effective from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2027, to cover youth in QRTPs with SED. The SED IMD Demonstration request will be effective upon approval of the Implementation Plan and through June 30, 2027.

Public Comment Process

- All comments and questions received during the public hearing via chat or verbally will be recorded as public comments.
- Public comments can also be sent to:
 - Care of Medicaid HEART Waiver Amendment Request, Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604-4210;
 - By telephone to (406) 444-2584; OR
 - By electronic mail to dphscomments@mt.gov.
- Public comments can be submitted until 11:59 PM MT on January 28, 2024.
- After the state reviews comments submitted during the state public comment period, DPHHS will submit a revised amendment request to CMS.