

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Waiver for Additional Services and Populations (WASP) Demonstration Virtual Public Hearing

May 19, 2022, noon to 2:00 p.m.

May 20, 2022, noon to 2:00 p.m.

OBJECTIVE OF TODAY'S PUBLIC HEARING

- Provide an overview of the pending WASP Section 1115 Extension/Renewal Request;
- Review the current status of the WASP; and
- Provide an opportunity to submit public comments.

Details about the Montana WASP Demonstration can be found on the DPHHS WASP Extension/Renewal [webpage](#).

Details about this Montana WASP Extension/Renewal Request can be found on the DPHHS [WASP Extension/Renewal webpage](#)

Overview:

Montana's WASP demonstration began in 1996. In over 25 years, through the process of amendments and extensions, it has grown and changed in both form and function. Amendments implemented in 2014, 2015 and 2016 gave the WASP its present shape, and that shape was extended for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022.

This extension/renewal requests continued authorization through December 31, 2027. The extension/renewal has no substantial changes; and although the waiver MHSP population is limited to 3,000 individuals at any time, the current MHSP enrollment is holding steady at approximately 1,100 members as of the end of 2021. The Aged Blind and/or Disabled (ABD) population has no membership cap.

Current Status:

The WASP's most recent requested change, via amendment submitted in September of 2021, achieved federal approval on March 30, 2022, but the implementation of that change will not be effective until the end of the federal public health emergency. Prior to this most recent change, the WASP covered three distinctly different populations:

1. Individuals aged 18 or older, with Severe Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) who are otherwise ineligible for Medicaid benefits and either:
 - Have income 0-138% of the FPL and are eligible for or enrolled in Medicare; or
 - Have income 139-150% of the FPL regardless of Medicare status (they can be covered or not covered by Medicare and be eligible).
 - Those who qualify received the Standard Medicaid Benefit
2. Individuals determined categorically eligible for ABD for dental treatment services above the \$1,125 State Plan dental treatment cap.
 - Those who qualify have this cap lifted.
3. Non-expansion Medicaid-covered individuals whose eligibility was based on MAGI, called the PCR population.
 - Those who qualified received 12-month continuous eligibility

The approval of this most recent amendment eliminates 12-month continuous eligibility for the PCR population at the end of the federal public health emergency which is expected to end before the end of 2022. This extension/renewal request asks for continuation of the current WASP program authorities for populations one and two, listed above, from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027.

Timeline and Public Comments:

The Public Comment Period for this WASP Extension/Renewal application is:

April 20 – June 18, 2022

Comments are welcome now through the Chat Function or by Speaking.

Comments and questions may also be submitted by the following methods:

By US Mail:

Medicaid WASP Waiver Extension/Renewal
Department of Public Health and Human Services, Director's Office
111 North Sanders Street
PO Box 4210
Helena MT 59604
c/o Mary Eve Kulawik

By telephone: (406) 444-2584

By electronic mail: dphscomments@mt.gov

You will also have opportunity to officially comment during the federal public comment period after Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finds the application and public notice requirements met.