



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Director's Office ♦ PO Box 4210 ♦ Helena, MT 59620 ♦ (406) 444-5622 ♦ Fax: (406) 444-1970 ♦ www.dphhs.mt.gov

Greg Gianforte, Governor

Adam Meier, Director

April 19, 2022

The Honorable [First Name] [Last Name]
[Title]
[Organization]
[Address]
[City], [State] [Zip]

**Re: Montana Section 1115 Waiver for Additional Services and Populations (WASP) Extension/
Renewal Application**

Dear [Title] [Last Name]:

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is pleased to invite comment from all Tribal Governments, Urban Indian Health Centers, and Indian Health Service (IHS) regarding the upcoming Montana Section 1115 Waiver for Additional Services and Populations (WASP) five-year extension/renewal. DPHHS will be submitting the extension/renewal for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval on or before June 30, 2022, with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2023.

Under our agreement, DPHHS provides you notice of all Medicaid State Plan and Waiver changes. To aid your review, we have indicated whether there will be a direct impact on reimbursement or coverage for American Indians/Alaska Natives. **The WASP extension/renewal makes no substantial changes and does not impact Tribes, Urban Indian Health Centers, and IHS.**

Short History of the WASP

The WASP is a statewide section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver that was first approved in 1996. This waiver has historically provided: a) an eligibility pathway for low-income individuals living with a severe mental illness (SMI) not otherwise eligible for Medicaid; b) unlimited dental treatment services for Aged/Blind/Disabled Medicaid enrollees; and c) 12 months of continuous health care coverage for individuals enrolled under the Parent/Caretaker Relative and Mental Health Service Plan categories.

On August 24, 2021, DPHHS consulted with Tribes, Urban Indian Health Centers, and IHS on a proposed amendment to the WASP. The proposed change was to discontinue 12-month continuous eligibility for the Parent/Caretaker Relative (PCR) and Mental Health Service Plan eligibility groups. After receiving comments via the August tribal consultation and public comment process, we submitted the waiver amendment requesting discontinuation of continuous eligibility for only the Parent/Caretaker Relative eligibility group. The WASP amendment was approved on March 30, 2022.

Current proposed actions:

DPHHS is proposing to request a five-year extension/renewal of WASP, effective from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2027. The WASP extension/renewal makes no substantial changes. DPHHS will hold an in-person tribal consultation on May 17 and May 18, 2022, which will include discussion on the WASP amendment approved March 30, 2022, and the WASP extension/renewal.

In addition, a 60-day public comment period will be held regarding the proposed WASP extension/renewal application from April 20 through June 18, 2022. The public comment period will include two virtual public hearings on May 19 and May 20, 2022, both held from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time. More information on the WASP extension/renewal and how to register for the public hearings is available in the full public notice that is attached to this letter.

DPHHS is committed to an extensive public process. We want to provide you the opportunity to review the proposed action, understand the concepts, and offer comments. We invite your comments and questions on the WASP extension/renewal emailed or postmarked **through June 18, 2022**. You may direct comments to Mary Eve Kulawik, Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Waiver Coordinator, at (406) 444-2584 or mkulawik@mt.gov; or Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604-4210.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marie Matthews
State Medicaid Director

c: Tribal Health Directors
Misty Kuhl, Director, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
Lesa Evers, Tribal Relations Manager, DPHHS

Attachment: WASP Extension/Renewal Full Public Notice