

**MONTANA SECTION 1115 HEALTH ECONOMIC LIVELIHOOD PARTNERSHIP  
(HELP) AMENDMENT APPLICATION  
Public Notice – July 2**

**The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is providing public notice of its intent to: (1) submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), on or before September 3, 2021, a written 1115 Demonstration application to amend the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Demonstration Program to remove 12-month continuous enrollment and (2) hold public hearings to receive comments on the 1115 Demonstration amendment application. DPHHS is seeking the removal of 12-month continuous enrollment to be effective July 1, 2021.**

The current 1115 HELP Waiver's Special Terms and Conditions provide expenditure authority to enable 12-month continuous coverage for Medicaid expansion adults. Montana's currently approved HELP Waiver authorized expenditures for health care-related costs for individuals in the new adult population determined financially eligible under the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)-based eligibility methods. That population received continued benefits during any periods within a twelve-month eligibility period regardless of a change of circumstances, with some exceptions. The state made a downward adjustment claiming 2.6 percent of expenditures at the standard federal matching rate instead of the enhanced new adult population federal matching rate.

As directed by statute, DPHHS is seeking the removal of this expenditure authority from its 1115 HELP Waiver. DPHHS is not seeking any changes to the current 1115 Waiver Amendment and Extension request submitted in August 2019, which is still under consideration by CMS.<sup>1</sup>

DPHHS understands that it is required to maintain continuous Medicaid coverage during the public health emergency as a condition of receiving a temporary 6.2 percent Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) increase under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.<sup>2</sup> In the event that the national public health emergency is extended beyond the date of this amendment approval, DPHHS will maintain continuous enrollment through the end of the public health emergency.

**Summary of Proposed Waiver Amendment**

This amendment request is seeking to remove § 1115(a)(2) expenditure authority for 12-month continuous enrollment and does not propose any additional changes beyond what is proposed in the August 2019 1115 HELP Waiver Amendment and Extension Request.

The Demonstration amendment request to remove 12-month continuous eligibility will affect the new adults eligible for the HELP Program.

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<sup>1</sup> Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Section 1115 Demonstration Amendment and Extension Application, August 26, 2019, available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/1115/downloads/mt/mt-help-program-pa3.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> [P.L. 116-127](#), Families First Coronavirus Response Act, March 18, 2020.

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There are no proposed changes to the Medicaid health care delivery system; Demonstration enrollees will continue to receive services through the State’s fee-for-service delivery system. Demonstration enrollees will also continue to receive benefits through the Alternative Benefit Plan; the State does not propose any changes to benefits for Demonstration enrollees.

**Public Meetings and Comment Process**

The full public notice statement and amendment application are available for public review at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/helpplan/2021medicaidnotice>. Paper copies are available to be picked up in person at the DPHHS Director’s Office located at 111 North Sanders Street, Room 301, Helena, Montana 59601.

Two virtual public meetings will be held regarding the Demonstration application:

- (1) Public hearing on July 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. MT  
Registration link can be found at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/helpplan/2021medicaidnotice>.
- (2) Montana Health Coalition meeting on July 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Registration link can be found at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/helpplan/2021medicaidnotice>.

You will receive instructions for joining the meeting upon registration. If special accommodations are needed, contact Mary Eve Kulawik at (406) 444-2584 or [mkulawik@mt.gov](mailto:mkulawik@mt.gov).

Public comments may be submitted until 11:59 PM (Mountain Time) on August 31, 2021. Questions or public comments may be addressed care of Medicaid HELP Waiver Amendment, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Director’s Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604-4210, or by telephone to (406) 444-2584, or by electronic mail to [dphhscomments@mt.gov](mailto:dphhscomments@mt.gov). Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after August 31, 2021, but the state may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of the Demonstration application to CMS.

After Montana reviews comments submitted during this state public comment period, the state will submit a revised application to CMS. Interested parties will also have an opportunity to officially comment during the 30-day federal public comment period; the submitted application will be available for comment on the CMS website at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/index.html>.