



Statewide Transition Plan (STP) – Montana

The STP describes how Montana will come into compliance with the new federal Home and Community-Based Settings Final Rule that became effective March 17, 2014. The purpose of these regulations is to ensure that individuals receive Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) in settings that are integrated in, and support full access to, the greater community. HCBS Waivers must be in full compliance with the federal rules by March 17, 2022. Montana received initial approval of their STP on December 23, 2016. The State is diligently working towards completing a final document to be submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) for approval. The final STP document will require a summation of the results of the state's on-site evaluations. These evaluations are expected to be completed after the first of the year.

CMS has identified specific setting characteristics that appear to isolate individuals receiving HCBS from the broader community. Settings meeting one or more of those characteristics require Heightened Scrutiny (HS) as outlined by CMS. Existing providers have until March 17, 2022 to meet all Final Rule mandates. New providers must meet all Final Rule mandates, including Heightened Scrutiny evaluation, prior to becoming an enrolled provider for HCBS services. As part of the HS process, the state will make a determination as to whether it believes the setting can overcome the presumption that the setting is institutional in nature. For settings that the state believes cannot overcome the presumption of being institutional in nature, provider applications will be denied. For the remaining settings, the state will complete an evidence packet, post the evidence packet for public comment and submit the complete evidence packet to CMS for their approval. At this time, the state is actively working with CMS to pursue approval of the Boulder Meadows Assisted Living Facility under the HS process.