



July 3, 2025

Notice of Section 1115 Waiver

In accordance with the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 53-2-215, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS or the department) is pleased to provide public notice of its intent to expeditiously submit an 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver application to implement various Medicaid Expansion program requirements outlined in state law, including policies related to community engagement and beneficiary cost sharing.

Specifically, in 2019, the Montana Legislature enacted legislation that amended state law which 1) directed DPHHS to implement community engagement requirements, as provided for in MCA 53-6-1308 (amended in 2025 by HB 687) and MCA 53-6-1309, and 2) established cost-sharing requirements, which are codified at MCA 53-6-1307. The Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Demonstration Program waiver application will seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement community engagement and cost-sharing requirements as documented in state code. Further, should related federal policy changes occur as proposed in the current version of H.R. 1, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, DPHHS will seek to align with federal law and may leverage an alternative (non-Section 1115) authority pathway to implement the desired program requirements.

DPHHS is providing this 60-day notice to begin soliciting comments regarding the state's planned waiver application. More information on the proposal, including links to related MCA provisions, are available on the department's HELP webpage, <https://help.mt.gov>.

DPHHS intends to publish a draft of the HELP Demonstration Program waiver application and formally open the federally required 30-day public comment period in mid-July. At that time, DPHHS will update the HELP webpage to include a copy of all draft waiver application materials, as well as release additional details about the required public hearings that will be held in late July and early August.

Interested parties may submit comments to DPHHS on the proposed demonstration program either electronically or through the mail:

1. Email dphhscomments@mt.gov, referencing "HELP Demonstration Waiver" in the subject line
2. U.S. Mail to:

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
Director's Office
Re: HELP Waiver
P.O. Box 4210
Helena, MT 59604-4210