

**MONTANA SECTION 1115 DEMONSTRATION AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION  
APPLICATION**

**Abbreviated Public Notice – Updated July 23, 2019**

**The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is providing an abbreviated public notice of its intent to: (1) submit to the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), on or before August 30, 2019, a written 1115 Demonstration application to amend and extend the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Demonstration Program and test new program features including work/community engagement requirements and a premium increase structure based on coverage duration; and (2) hold public hearings to receive comments on the 1115 Demonstration amendment and extension application.**

In November 2015, CMS approved Montana’s Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver, “Montana Health Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Demonstration,” that: expanded Medicaid coverage to newly eligible adults effective January 1, 2016; authorized 12 month continuous eligibility for all new adults; applied enrollee premiums equal to two percent of aggregate household income; and, instituted maximum co-payments allowable under federal law. The approved waiver also authorized the administration of Medicaid through a Third Party Administrator (TPA) for enrollees subject to premiums.

In December 2017, CMS approved an amendment to Montana’s Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver that maintained Medicaid expansion, 12 month continuous eligibility and premiums, but removed the authorization of the TPA and the premium credit that applied to some HELP enrollees’ cost-sharing obligations. The amended Demonstration is approved for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020.

House Bill 658, the Medicaid Reform and Integrity Act, directs the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS or the Department) to request federal Demonstration approval to continue the state’s Medicaid expansion and to implement new Medicaid expansion program features. The Department is seeking to amend its Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver, [Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership \(HELP\) Demonstration Program](#), to: (1) condition Medicaid coverage on compliance with work/community engagement requirements; and (2) apply a premium structure that gradually increases enrollee premiums based on coverage duration. A complete summary of the proposed Demonstration Amendment and Extension is available here: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/MedicaidExpExt/pubnotice>.

Through the 1115 Demonstration amendment and extension, Montana will continue to provide quality and affordable coverage for the nearly 100,000 low-income Montanans who gained coverage under expansion.

**Summary of New Proposed HELP Demonstration Program Features**

Montana seeks to amend and extend the State’s current Demonstration to maintain current Demonstration features while testing new and amended Medicaid program features which include the following:

- **Work/Community Engagement.** The State seeks waiver authority to condition Medicaid coverage on compliance with work/community engagement requirements for non-exempt expansion adults with incomes up to 138 percent of the FPL.
- **Premium Increase Structure Based on Coverage Duration.** The State seeks to amend its Demonstration approach to premiums by applying a premium structure that gradually increases monthly premiums based on the length of time an individual is enrolled in coverage under the Demonstration. In the first two years of coverage, Demonstration enrollees with income greater than 50 percent of the FPL will pay premiums in the amount equal to two percent of their aggregate household income. The enrollee's premium obligation would gradually increase by 0.5 percent in each subsequent year of coverage under the Demonstration with a maximum premium amount not to exceed 4 percent of the enrollee's aggregate household income. Medicaid enrollees will not be subject to co-payments under this premium payment structure.

Populations eligible for the Demonstration are not changing, but eligibility requirements are changing as described above.

The State does not propose any 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 complete version of the updated draft of the Demonstration amendment and extension application is available for public review at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/MedicaidExpExt>. Paper copies are available to be picked up in person at DPHHS offices located at 111 North Sanders Street, Helena, Montana 59601.

Two public meetings will be held regarding the Demonstration amendment and extension application:

- (1) July 31, 2019 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Billings Clinic, Conference Center, 2800 10th Avenue North, Billings, Montana.
- (2) August 1, 2019 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Sanders Auditorium, 111 North Sanders, Helena, Montana.

To register for one or both meetings, use the following link, <https://dphhs.mt.gov/MedicaidExpExt>. You will receive instructions for joining the meeting upon registration. If special accommodations are needed, contact (406) 444-2584.

Public comments may be submitted until midnight on August 23, 2019. Questions or comments may be addressed care of Medicaid Expansion Extension, 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).

After Montana reviews comments submitted during this state public comment period, the Department will submit a revised application to CMS. Interested parties will also have opportunity to officially comment during the federal public comment period after CMS finds the application and public notice requirements met.