

**MONTANA SECTION 1115 HEALING AND ENDING ADDICTION THROUGH
RECOVERY AND TREATMENT (HEART) DEMONSTRATION APPLICATION**
Abbreviated Public Notice – July 8, 2021

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 30, a written 1115 Demonstration application to request federal authority to test new benefits for Medicaid members with behavioral health needs including tenancy supports, evidence-based stimulant use disorder treatment models including contingency management services, and targeted services provided to inmates in the 30 days prior to release, and to reimburse for acute inpatient and residential stays at institutions for mental disease (IMD) for individuals diagnosed with substance use disorders (SUD), serious mental illness (SMI) and serious emotional disturbance (SED) and; and (2) hold public hearings to receive comments on the 1115 Demonstration application. DPHHS is seeking an effective term of five years for the Demonstration from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2026. All proposed requests are subject to approval by CMS.

DPHHS is requesting a Section 1115 Demonstration to build upon the strides made by the state over the last decade to establish a comprehensive continuum of behavioral health—mental health and SUD—services for its Medicaid members. This Demonstration is a critical component of the state’s commitment to expand coverage and access to prevention, crisis intervention, treatment and recovery services through Governor Gianforte’s Healing and Ending Addiction through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Initiative. The HEART Initiative, included in the recently passed [H.B. 701](#), will invest significant state and federal funding to expand the state’s behavioral health continuum. The demonstration will support the state’s broader efforts to strengthen its evidence-based behavioral health continuum of care for individuals with SUD, SMI and SED; enable prevention and earlier identification of behavioral health issues; and monitor the quality of care delivered to members with behavioral health needs across outpatient, residential and inpatient settings through improved data collection and reporting.

This Demonstration seeks to expand access to and improve transitions of care across inpatient, residential, and community-based treatment and recovery services for individuals with SUD, SMI and SED by adding services to support successful community living, increasing access to intensive community treatment models and obtaining coverage for short-term stays delivered to individuals residing in IMDs. This Demonstration will also enable the state to provide additional resources to help the state combat SUD-related overdoses and suicides, and complement its efforts to build out a robust and integrated behavioral health delivery system.

Approval of this Demonstration will assist Montana in addressing its serious public health crisis in substance use disorders—including alcohol abuse, methamphetamine use, and opioid abuse and overdose—as well as surging mental health needs among state residents. The goals and objectives of the demonstration are described in more detail below.

Summary of Proposed Waiver Features

Montana is seeking:

- To add new Medicaid services under this Demonstration as part of its commitment to ensuring that Medicaid members have access to a full continuum of behavioral health services including:
 - Evidence-based stimulant use disorder treatment models, including contingency management;
 - Tenancy support; and
 - Pre-release care management and limited Medicaid services to be provided to inmates in the 30 days pre-release.
- Expenditure authority allowing federal reimbursement for Medicaid services provided to short-term residents of IMDs obtaining treatment for SUD, SMI and SED.

All children ages 18-20 years old and adults eligible to receive full Medicaid benefits under the Montana State Plan, Alternative Benefit Plan or Medicaid 1115 waivers, as well as children aged 18 eligible for the CHIP program, will be included in this Demonstration.

There are no proposed changes to the Medicaid delivery system as part of this application. Montana plans to continue using a fee-for-service delivery system for all Medicaid services, including behavioral health services.

Public Meetings and Comment Process

The full public notice statement and complete version of the draft of the Demonstration application are available for public review at: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/heartwaiver>. 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) July 20 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm MT
- (2) July 21 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm MT

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

Public comments may be submitted until 11:59 pm on September 7. Questions or public comments may be addressed care of Medicaid HEART Waiver, 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. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after September 7, 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 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>.