

## PASSPORT TO HEALTH PROGRAM

### What is Passport to Health?

Passport to Health is a primary care case management (PCCM) program that has been in place since 1994. It serves members of Montana Medicaid, the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP)/Medicaid Expansion, and Healthy Montana Kids Plus (HMK Plus). The program operates under a special Medicaid 1915(b) waiver, which must be renewed every two years. The current waiver expires on June 30, 2026.

### How does Passport to Health work?

In this program, a designated primary care provider (PCP) acts as a "medical home" for members. The PCP is responsible for managing or coordinating the member's healthcare needs. This includes providing direct care or making referrals to other providers for services that fall outside the PCP's scope. Except for certain cases, members must receive services through or with approval from their Passport provider.

### What is a medical home?

The concept of a medical home centers on fostering a strong, continuous relationship between patients and their primary care providers. This means members receive ongoing, high-quality care covering both preventive services (like regular checkups) and timely care when they are sick or injured. Members benefit from care that is accessible, comprehensive, and coordinated.

### How do members choose a provider?

Every member enrolled in Passport to Health has a primary care provider, which can be a physician, mid-level practitioner, or a primary care clinic. If a member does not select a provider, one is chosen for them. Members generally need to see their designated provider for most services, but the provider can refer them to other healthcare professionals when necessary.

### How are providers compensated?

Passport PCPs receive a small monthly payment for each member they manage - \$1 per member per month for most members and \$3 per member per month for members with specific needs, such as those who are aged, blind, or disabled. In return, the provider ensures members have access to necessary care, whether for preventive services or treatment of illnesses, and refers them to specialists or other providers when needed.

### Program Data

In State Fiscal Year 2024, the Passport to Health program had 154,590 enrolled members from Montana Medicaid, HELP, and HMK Plus with 1,242 providers participating. The program's total cost was \$1,289,892.

### Resources

- <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/passport>
- <https://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/MemberServices>