

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

June 30, 2022

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

The State of Montana submits to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the enclosed Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver application to renew the Waiver for Additional Services and Populations (WASP) 1115 Demonstration.

On September 3, 2021, Montana submitted a WASP 1115 Demonstration amendment application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to remove funding for the 12-month continuous coverage policy for parents and caretaker relatives (PCR). The demonstration continues to provide expenditure authority for 12-month continuous eligibility and coverage of health care services for the Mental Health Service Plan (MHSP) population. The demonstration also continues to authorize expenditures for Montana to provide dental treatment services above the state plan dental treatment services annual limit of \$1,125 for certain categorically eligible beneficiaries. This amendment has an implementation date at the conclusion of the federal Public Health Emergency. The WASP amendment was approved on March 30, 2022.

The current WASP 1115 Demonstration renewal requests a five-year extension with no substantial changes effective January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2027. The goal of the WASP Demonstration mirrors the state's Medicaid goal, that is to assure medically necessary medical care is available to all eligible Montanans within available funding resources.

As of year-end 2021, approximately 1,100 individuals were determined eligible for the WASP's MHSP. Qualifying individuals are age 18 or older, with severe disabling mental illness, are otherwise ineligible for Medicaid benefits and either have an income 0-138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and are eligible for or enrolled in Medicare; or have an income 139-150% of the FPL regardless of Medicare status.

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Approximately 29,300 individuals are determined categorically eligible for Aged, Blind and/or Disabled (ABD) dental treatment services above the \$1,125 Medicaid State Plan dental treatment cap. Including the ABD Dental population under the WASP coverage provides individuals determined categorically eligible for ABD with dental treatment services above the \$1,125 State Plan dental treatment cap.

On April 20, 2022, our state began the extensive state-level, 60-day public noticing process with all Montanans, including health care organizations, advocacy groups, and Medicaid members and their families. The state also engaged Tribal Governments, Urban Indian Health Centers, and the Indian Health Service in a letter mailed on April 18, 2022, as well as conducted an in-person tribal consultation on May 17 and 18, 2022.

On behalf of all Montanans, I look forward to collaborating with CMS to get the WASP 1115 Demonstration Waiver renewal approved in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

cc: Daniel Tsai, M.D., CMS
Anne Marie Costello, CMS
Judith Cash, CMS
Teresa DeCaro, CMS
Mehreen Rashid, CMS
Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, CMS