



**Section 1115 WASP Demonstration Waiver
Post Award Forum
(July 29, 2021)**

Waiver for Additional Services and Populations (WASP) is a Montana Medicaid Waiver Program administered by the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

WASP Populations:

- 1) Individuals age 18 or older, with Severe Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) who qualify for or are enrolled in the state-financed Mental Health Services Plan (MHSP), but are otherwise ineligible for Medicaid benefits and either:
 - a. Have income 0 - 138% of the Federal Poverty Level and are eligible for or enrolled in Medicare;
OR
 - b. Have income 139 – 150% of the Federal Poverty Level regardless of Medicare status (they can be covered or not covered by Medicare and be eligible).
- 2) Provide a 12-month continuous eligibility period for all non-expansion Medicaid-covered individuals whose eligibility is based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI).
- 3) Individuals determined categorically eligible for Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) for dental treatment services above the \$1,125 State Plan dental treatment cap.

What is now the WASP originated 1996 and has undergone many changes in name and function. The current waiver approval expires 12/31/2022.

Participant Enrollment:

Total WASP enrollment at the end of 2020 was 50,893 this number increased to 52,314 as of June 1, 2021.

- 24,022 were those non-expansion Medicaid-covered individuals whose eligibility is based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), for whom WASP provides a 12-month continuous eligibility period.
- 27,242 were those individuals determined categorically eligible for Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) for dental treatment services above the \$1,125 State Plan dental treatment cap.
- 1,050 were those individuals age 18 or older, with Severe Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) who qualify for or are enrolled in the state-financed Mental Health Services Plan (MHSP), but are otherwise ineligible for Medicaid benefits and either:
 - a. Have income 0 - 138% of the Federal Poverty Level and are eligible for or enrolled in Medicare; OR
 - b. Have income 139 – 150% of the Federal Poverty Level regardless of Medicare status (they can be covered or not covered by Medicare and be eligible).

The WASP allows a maximum of 3,000 (WMHSP) enrollees to be served. With the implementation of Medicaid expansion in January of 2016, many previous WASP members (called Basic Medicaid before the name change) became eligible for Montana Medicaid Expansion.



WASP Current Covered Services:

- The WMHSP population receives the Standard Medicaid benefit.
- The non-expansion Medicaid-covered individuals whose eligibility is based on MAGI are extended 12-month continuous eligibility for their existing Standard Medicaid benefit.
- The categorically eligible for Standard Medicaid ABD population will have their dental treatment services above the \$1,125 State Plan cap covered by the WASP.

WASP 2020/2021 Updates:

- A new evaluation design for the demonstration period 1/1/2018 through 12/31/2022 was approved on April 5, 2021.
- During the 2021 Legislative Session, Montana passed a budget that explicitly removed funding for 12-month continuous coverage for the HELP Waiver (also known as Medicaid Expansion) and directed DPHHS to terminate the policy.
 - While the WASP amendment was not directed by this action, DPHHS believes it would cause significant additional administrative burden to continue the 12-month continuous eligibility period in one waiver and not the other.
 - The process is currently in the public comment period, ending a midnight, August 31, 2021. The first of two public hearings was held yesterday, with statewide virtual access and this meeting today serves as the second.

Contact Information:

Eligibility or Benefit questions regarding the MHSP

Waiver population:

Barbara Graziano
(406) 444-9330
bgraziano@mt.gov

DPHHS

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/healthcare>

Other Questions or Comments About the WASP:

Linda Skiles-Haddock
WASP Program Officer
(406) 444-6868
Lskiles-haddock@mt.gov

Conduent

<http://medicaidprovider.mt.gov>

Member Services: 1-800-362-8312

Provider Relations:

1-800-624-3958