

Utah's Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration

frequently asked questions (FAQ)

General Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration questions

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General Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration questions

What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is a state/federal program that pays for medical services for low-income, pregnant women, children, individuals who are elderly or have a disability, parents, and women with breast or cervical cancer. To qualify, these individuals must meet income and other eligibility requirements. More information on Utah Medicaid can be found [here](#).

Who is eligible for Medicaid?

Medicaid covers medical expenses for certain groups of people who have limited income and resources. To learn more about the eligibility requirements, click [here](#).

How do I apply for Medicaid?

You can apply for medical assistance today. You will need to complete an application and provide some documents, like a birth certificate. Click [here](#) to start the online application.

How is healthcare delivered to Medicaid members?

Managed Care Plans (MCPs) provide medical, dental and behavioral health services to eligible Medicaid and CHIP members. To learn more about Utah's MCP's click [here](#).

What is Utah's Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration?

[Section 1115 of the Social Security Act](#) gives states the flexibility to design and improve their Medicaid programs, to demonstrate and evaluate state-specific policy approaches that better serve Medicaid populations. Utah's Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration was implemented July 1, 2002. Generally, 1115 Demonstrations are approved for an initial five-year period and can be extended for up to an additional three to five years, depending on the populations served. States commonly request and receive additional five-year extension approvals.

Utah's current demonstration has been approved through June 30, 2027. Over the years, additional programs and benefits have been authorized under the demonstration. When a state submits an 1115 Demonstration Amendment Proposal, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reviews the proposal to determine whether its stated objectives are aligned with federal policies and regulations. For more information on Utah's Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration, click [here](#).

What is the purpose of this Demonstration?

The purpose of the demonstration, which gives states additional flexibility to design and improve their Medicaid programs, is to demonstrate and evaluate state-specific policy approaches to better serving Medicaid populations.

What is CMS?

CMS is the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It is the federal agency that provides health coverage to more than 160 million through Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Health Insurance Marketplace. CMS works in partnership with the entire healthcare community to improve quality, equity, and outcomes in the healthcare system. For more information on CMS, click [here](#).

What is the MCAC?

The Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) is a federally required committee that provides the state Medicaid agency with recommendations on the operation and planning of Medicaid programs. This committee meets on a monthly basis and includes provider, consumer, and government representatives. Before Utah submits an 1115 Demonstration application to CMS, a public hearing is held during the MCAC meeting where input on the application can be provided. For more information on Utah's MCAC, click [here](#).

What Demonstration requests have been approved by CMS?

The demonstration authorizes the following programs and benefits:

- **Adult Expansion** - Provides Medicaid benefits to adults, age 19-64 who have a household income up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).
- **Aged Dental** - Provides state plan dental benefits to Medicaid eligible individuals, age 65 and older.
- **Dental Benefits for Individuals who are Blind or Disabled** - Provides state plan dental benefits to individuals age 18 and older, who are blind or have disabilities.
- **Employer Sponsored Insurance** - Individuals in the Adult Expansion group are required to enroll in employer sponsored insurance (ESI), if it is available to the eligible individual.
- **Fertility Preservation for Individuals Diagnosed with Cancer** - Fertility preservation services are available for beneficiaries undergoing gonadotoxic cancer treatments, or other medically necessary treatment, that is expected to render them permanently infertile.
- **Former Foster Care Youth from Another State** - Provides state plan Medicaid benefits to former foster care youth from another state, up to age 26.
- **Housing Related Services and Supports (HRSS)** - Provides housing related services and supports in the form of tenancy support, community transition, and supportive living services to TAM enrollees experiencing homelessness, food or transportation insecurity, or interpersonal violence and trauma.
- **In Vitro Fertilization and Genetic Testing Services** - Provides in vitro fertilization services and genetic testing for Medicaid eligible individuals who have specific qualified conditions.
- **Intensive Stabilization Services (ISS)** - Allows the state to provide intensive stabilization services to Medicaid eligible children and youth under age 21, who are in state custody, or at risk of state custody, and experiencing significant emotional and/or behavioral challenges.
- **Justice Involved** - Provides limited coverage of targeted services for inmates in a state prison, county jail, or juvenile justice facility for up to 90 days prior to the individual's expected release date.
- **Residential and Inpatient Treatment for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)** - Provides expenditure authority for services furnished to eligible individuals, ages 21 through 64, who receive treatment for a SMI, and who are short-term residents in facilities that meet the definition of an IMD.
- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Residential Treatment** - Provides coverage of SUD residential treatment in an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) for all Medicaid eligible individuals.
- **Targeted Adult Dental Benefits** - Provides state plan dental benefits for Targeted Adult

Medicaid eligible individuals who are receiving Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment.

- **Targeted Adult Medicaid** - Provides state plan Medicaid benefits to a targeted group of adults without dependent children.
- **Utah's Premium Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP)** - Provides premium assistance to help pay the individual's or family's share of monthly premium costs of employer-sponsored insurance or COBRA.
- **Utah Medicaid Integrated Care (UMIC)** - Allows the state to operate an integrated managed care pilot combining physical health and behavioral health services in five Utah counties for the Adult Expansion Population (not including the Targeted Adult Population).

What Demonstration requests have not yet been approved by CMS?

The following amendment proposals are currently pending a decision from CMS:

- **Chronic Conditions Support** - Utah is requesting authority to provide additional Medicaid services to fee for service enrollment members with qualified chronic health conditions.
- **Dental Services for Medicaid-eligible Adults** - Utah is requesting approval to provide dental services to Medicaid-eligible adults, ages 21 and older who are not already eligible for dental services.
- **Fallback Plan** - Utah is requesting authority to implement the provision of Senate Bill 96 "Medicaid Expansion Adjustments" which passed during the 2019 Utah Legislative Session. This waiver amendment proposes to increase the income limit for the Adult Expansion program to 138% federal poverty level (FPL), in addition to other program provisions and requirements.
- **Family Planning Services** - Utah is requesting authority to provide family planning services to a specific population.
- **Integrated Behavioral Health Services** - Utah is requesting authority to allow individuals to receive existing state plan covered physical and behavioral services in an integrated model through a local mental health authority.
- **Long Term Services and Supports** - Utah is requesting authority to provide Long Term Services and Supports to individuals with behaviorally complex conditions.
- **Per Capita Cap** - Utah is requesting authority to implement the provisions of Senate Bill 96 "Medicaid Expansion Adjustments," which passed during the 2019 Utah Legislative Session.

What are the goals for Utah's Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration?

Over the five-year approval period, Utah seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Provide healthcare coverage for low-income Utahns eligible under the demonstration who would not otherwise have access to, or be able to afford, healthcare coverage;
- Improve beneficiary health outcomes and quality of life;

- Lower the uninsured rate of low income Utahns;
- Provide continuity of coverage for individuals eligible under the demonstration;
- Increase access to primary care;
- Reduce uncompensated care provided by Utah hospitals;
- Reduce barriers to healthcare and housing, an important social determinant of health;
- Increase the utilization of preventive dental services, while reducing emergency dental procedure costs;
- Improve access to services across the continuum of care;
- Provide for better care coordination for individuals transitioning to community based care;
- Reduce the utilization of emergency departments and inpatient hospital settings for treatment where utilization is preventable or medically inappropriate;
- Reduce the overdose death rate; and
- Improve access to fertility preservation services for Medicaid eligible individuals diagnosed with cancer, as well as access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) services for individuals diagnosed with certain genetic disorders.

Is Utah's Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration effective?

Utah provides demonstration reporting and quality and evaluation plans. This includes a description of how the evaluation design and annual progress reports will be modified to incorporate amendment provisions, as well as the oversight, monitoring, and measurement of the 1115 Demonstration's provisions. To access the 1115 Demonstration monitoring reports, click [here](#). To access evaluation plans, click [here](#).

How can I get involved in the Demonstration planning?

Utah must provide at least a 30-day public notice and comment period regarding amendments (applications), or an extension of an existing project that the state intends to submit to CMS for review and consideration. At least two public hearings to seek public input on each demonstration application are held. Copies of the applications are available for public review and comment. Written comments may be sent and reviewed by the public. Information on applications in the 30-day public notice period can be found [here](#). To submit comments on current applications, click [here](#). Public notice process requirements can be found [here](#). Send questions regarding Utah's Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration to medicaid1115waiver@utah.gov

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