



# **Montana Section 1115 Waiver for Additional Services and Populations (WASP) Demonstration Waiver Public Hearing**

**DECEMBER 2026 EXTENSION/RENEWAL SUBMISSION**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 1, 2028**

## **OBJECTIVE OF TODAY'S PUBLIC HEARING**

- Provide an overview of the pending WASP Section 1115 Extension Request;
- Review the status of the WASP; and
- Provide an opportunity to submit public comments.

Details about the Montana WASP Demonstration can be found on the DPHHS WASP webpage.

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/montanahealthcareprograms/medicaid/medicaid1115waiver/>

Details about this Montana WASP Extension/Renewal Request can be found on the DPHHS WASP Extension webpage.

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/montanahealthcareprograms/medicaid/2026waspwaiver>

## **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DEMONSTRATION**

The WASP is a statewide section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver that was first approved in 1996. This waiver has historically provided: an eligibility pathway for low-income individuals living with a severe disabling mental illness (SDMI) not otherwise eligible for Medicaid; and unlimited dental treatment services for Aged, Blind, Disabled Medicaid enrollees.

The current waiver extension period continues through December 31, 2027.

## **WASP ELIGIBILITY & BENEFITS**

### **POPULATION 1 (SDMI)**

- Individuals aged 18 or older, with a Severe Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) diagnosis who are otherwise ineligible for Medicaid benefits and either:
  - Have income 0-138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and are eligible for or enrolled in Medicare; or
  - Have income 139-150% of the FPL regardless of Medicare status (they can be covered or not covered by Medicare and be eligible).
- The SDMI population is limited to 3,000 individuals at any time, the SDMI enrollment is slowly declining with under 600 members as of August 1, 2026.



## **POPULATION 2 (ABD)**

- Individuals determined categorically eligible for Aged, Blind and/or Disabled (ABD) for dental treatment services above the \$1,205 State Plan dental treatment cap.
- The ABD population has no enrollment cap.

## **WASP GOALS**

The goal of the Waiver for Additional Services and Populations (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.

The goals of WASP for Population 1, the SDMI population, are threefold. The goals include improving:

- access to mental health care,
- utilization of mental health care, and
- mental health outcomes for individuals age 18 or older, with SDMI who qualify for, or are enrolled in, the Section 1115 WASP by providing coverage to receive Standard Medicaid benefits for mental health services.

The goal of WASP for Population 2, the ABD Dental population, is to provide individuals determined categorically eligible for ABD with dental treatment services above the \$1,205 State Plan dental treatment cap.

## **WASP EXTENSION/RENEWAL**

The WASP Waiver is due to expire on December 31, 2027. This extension request continues authorization through December 31, 2032. The extension includes one programmatic change. The SDMI population will no longer receive 12-month expanded continuous Medicaid eligibility. Instead, they will receive the standard 6-month continuous eligibility period. This change is being requested based on guidance received from CMS received in July 2025. All other components of the demonstration remain unchanged.