



# Department of Public Health and Human Services

Director's Office ♦ PO Box 4210 ♦ Helena, MT 59620 ♦ (406) 444-5622 ♦ Fax: (406) 444-1970 ♦ www.dphhs.mt.gov

Greg Gianforte, Governor

Adam Meier, Director

Date: April 19, 2022

To: Montana Health Coalition Members, Ad Hoc Members, and Interested Parties

From: Marie Matthews, Medicaid State Director

Subject: Montana Section 1115 Waiver for Additional Services and Populations (WASP) Extension/Renewal Application

This memo is to inform you that on or before June 30, 2022, DPHHS will submit a five-year Section 1115 Waiver for Additional Services and Populations (WASP) Medicaid Waiver Extension/Renewal application for approval to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2023.

### Short History of the WASP

The WASP is a statewide section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver that was first approved in 1996. This waiver has historically provided: a) an eligibility pathway for low-income individuals living with a severe mental illness (SMI) not otherwise eligible for Medicaid; b) unlimited dental treatment services for Aged/Blind/Disabled Medicaid enrollees; and c) 12 months of continuous health care coverage for individuals enrolled under the Parent/Caretaker Relative and Mental Health Service Plan categories.

On July 29, 2021, DPHHS consulted with the Montana Health Coalition on a proposed amendment to the WASP. The proposed change was to discontinue 12-month continuous eligibility for the Parent/Caretaker Relative and Mental Health Service Plan eligibility groups. After receiving your comments via the July 2021 meeting and public comment process, we submitted the waiver amendment requesting discontinuation of continuous eligibility for only the Parent/Caretaker Relative eligibility group. The WASP amendment was approved on March 30, 2022.

### Current proposed actions:

DPHHS is proposing to request a five-year extension/renewal of WASP, effective from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2027. The WASP extension/renewal makes no substantial changes.

A 60-day public comment period will be held regarding the proposed WASP extension/renewal application from April 20 through June 18, 2022. The public comment period will include two virtual public hearings on May 19 and May 20, 2022, both held from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time. More information on the WASP extension/renewal and how to register for the public hearings is available in the attached full public notice.

DPHHS is committed to an extensive public process. We want to provide you the opportunity to review the proposed action, understand the concepts, and offer comments. We invite your comments and questions on the WASP extension/renewal emailed or postmarked **through June 18, 2022**. You may direct comments to Mary Eve Kulawik, Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Waiver Coordinator, at (406) 444-2584 or mkulawik@mt.gov; or Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604-4210.

Thank you.

Attachment: WASP Extension/Renewal Full Public Notice