

## Notice of Agency Action

**Subject:** MassHealth: Notice of Submission of a Request to extend the MassHealth Section 1115 Demonstration

**Agency:** Executive Office of Health and Human Services

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) announces its intent to submit a request to extend the MassHealth Section 1115 Demonstration (“Request”) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The MassHealth 1115 Demonstration provides federal authority for Massachusetts to expand eligibility to individuals who are not otherwise eligible for coverage through Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program, offer services that are not typically covered by Medicaid, and use innovative service delivery systems that improve the quality of care and health outcomes, increase efficiency, and reduce costs.

Beginning in 2018, under the current 1115 demonstration, the Baker-Polito administration implemented the most significant delivery system reforms for MassHealth members in over two decades. These reforms included restructuring the delivery system towards integrated, value-based and accountable care; improving integration of physical health, behavioral health, and long-term services and supports; and addressing the opioid crisis through expanded access to a broad spectrum of recovery-oriented substance use disorder services. The current demonstration period ends June 30, 2022.

**This fall, MassHealth will submit an 1115 demonstration extension request to continue progress in improving health outcomes and closing health disparities with five goals:**

- 1) Continue the path of restructuring and re-affirm accountable, value-based care – increasing expectations for how ACOs improve care and trend management, and refining the model.
- 2) Reform and invest in primary care, behavioral health and pediatric care that expands access and moves the delivery system away from siloed, fee-for-service health care.
- 3) Advance health equity, with a focus on initiatives addressing health-related social needs and specific disparities, including maternal health and health care for justice-involved individuals.
- 4) Sustainably support the Commonwealth’s safety net, including level, predictable funding for safety net providers, with a continued linkage to accountable care.
- 5) Maintain near-universal coverage including updates to eligibility policies to support coverage and equity.

The Commonwealth remains in active dialogue with the provider community around the parameters of these critical funding streams.

Request documents, including a more detailed public notice, can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/proposed-1115-demonstration-extension-2022-2027-documents>

### **Public Comment Period**

EOHHS will host two public listening sessions to hear public comments on the Request. Stakeholders are invited to review the Request in advance and share with EOHHS staff at the listening sessions any input and feedback, or questions for future clarification.

The listening sessions are scheduled as follows:

- Listening session #1 will be held virtually on September 9, 2021, from 11AM – 12:30PM

- Meeting Link: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android  
<https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/98201482334?pwd=Qi9JRWx1MlVlVWVURhYXA5VnhEZkFrdz09>

Password: 948301

- Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +13126266799,98201482334# or +16468769923,98201482334#
- Or dial by Telephone:
  - +1 312 626 6799 (US Toll)
  - +1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)
  - +1 301 715 8592 (US Toll)
  - +1 346 248 7799 (US Toll)
  - +1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)
  - +1 253 215 8782 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 982 0148 2334 - Password: 948301

International numbers available: <https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/98201482334>

- Listening session #2, in conjunction with a meeting of the MassHealth Medical Care Advisory Committee and the MassHealth Payment Policy Advisory Board, will be held virtually on September 15, 2021 from 2PM – 3:30PM

- Meeting Link: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android <https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/95670890113?pwd=SE9VMDcyM2JkOHFiV3FGa1ZhT1NnZz09>

Password: 067626

- Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16468769923,95670890113# or +13017158592,95670890113#
- Or dial by Telephone:

+1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)  
+1 301 715 8592 (US Toll)  
+1 312 626 6799 (US Toll)  
+1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)  
+1 253 215 8782 (US Toll)  
+1 346 248 7799 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 956 7089 0113 - Password: 067626

International numbers available: <https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/95670890113>

Live transcription and closed captioning will be available at both events, and we anticipate providing Spanish interpretation. Please contact Alysa St. Charles at [Alysa.StCharles@umassmed.edu](mailto:Alysa.StCharles@umassmed.edu) to request reasonable accommodations or additional language translation for either date.

EOHHS will accept written comments on the proposed Request through September 20, 2021. Written comments may be delivered by email or mail. By email, please send comments to [1115-Comments@mass.gov](mailto:1115-Comments@mass.gov) and include “Comments on Demonstration Extension Request” in the subject line. By mail, please send comments to: EOHHS Office of Medicaid, Attn: 1115 Demonstration Comments, One Ashburton Place, 11th Floor, Boston, MA 02108. Comments must be received by 5 pm on September 20, 2021 in order to be considered. Paper or electronic copies of the extension request documents and/or submitted comments may be obtained by emailing a request to [1115-Comments@mass.gov](mailto:1115-Comments@mass.gov) or by mailing a request to EOHHS Office of Medicaid, Attn: 1115 Demonstration Comments, One Ashburton Place, 11th Floor, Boston, MA 02108. Comments will be posted on the MassHealth 1115 Demonstration website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/proposed-1115-demonstration-extension-2022-2027-documents>