



## Fact Sheet: MassHealth's Requested 1115 Demonstration Amendment Supports Health Equity and Universal Coverage

March 2024

On March 27, 2024, the Healey-Driscoll Administration posted for public comment a proposal to amend Massachusetts' Section 1115 Demonstration ("1115 Demonstration"). The amendment proposes additional innovative flexibilities under the 1115 Demonstration that was approved on September 28, 2022.

The Massachusetts 1115 Demonstration, currently approved through December 31, 2027, has long supported the Commonwealth's commitment to universal health care coverage and has provided federal authority to test innovations in payment and care delivery. The posted amendment aims to advance health equity by expanding coverage and further addressing members' health-related social needs.

**MassHealth intends to request the following authorities through this amendment:**

**Authorize Designated State Health Program (DSHP) funding for New Initiatives.** This authority would provide new federal support for existing state operated programs that serve low income and vulnerable populations in Massachusetts (the "Designated State Health Programs"). **The new initiatives supported by DSHP funding include:**

- An expansion of existing 1115 demonstration expenditure authority for marketplace subsidies to include eligible individuals above 300%, up to 500% FPL. The expansion would align with Massachusetts Legislature statutory changes and enable more individuals to benefit from these supports and further mitigate cost "cliffs" among the Commonwealth's different insurance programs.
- An expansion of existing 1115 demonstration expenditure authority to further increase the income limit to the state statutory limit for certain waivers to provide Medicare Savings Program (MSP) benefits for MassHealth Standard individuals. This will allow higher income individuals with Standard (who are often spending down income to receive Standard) to also receive the benefit of the MSP expansions under the state budget.
- Short term post-hospitalization housing (STPHH) of up to six months of post-hospitalization housing and supportive services for eligible MassHealth members who meet risk-based and clinical criteria. STPHH seeks to improve members' health and avert further intensive medical interventions, reduce health disparities, and reduce the total cost of care for members experiencing homelessness.
- Social Services Integration funds to meet new needs and expectations regarding managed care participation and electronic referral platforms in the new HRSN framework. The funds would allow the inclusion of CSP providers, broader technical assistance, and additional partnerships.
- Provision of certain Medicaid covered services (including medical, behavioral health, and pharmacy services) for up to 90 days prior to expected release to "qualified individuals" including all individuals in County Correctional Facilities (CCFs) and state Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities and eligible youth committed to the care and custody of the state Department of Youth Services (DYS).

### Public Comment Period:

EOHHS will accept comments on the proposed amendment through 5:00 PM on April 26, 2024. Written comments may be delivered by email or mail. By email, please send comments to [1115WaiverComments@mass.gov](mailto:1115WaiverComments@mass.gov) and write "1115 Amendment Comments" in the subject line. By mail, please send comments to: 1115 Amendment Comments, EOHHS Office of Medicaid, One Ashburton Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02108. Comments must be received by April 26, 2024 in order to be considered.

The amendment documents may be obtained on the MassHealth website: [1115 MassHealth Demonstration \("Waiver"\) | Mass.gov](#). Additional updates and final submissions to CMS will also be posted on this website.