

# Montana Medicaid Expansion Update

## Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee

January 16, 2020



*Healthy People. Healthy Communities.*

Department of Public Health & Human Services

# Waiver Extension and Amendment Actions To Date

**Montana received and responded over 300 comments on the Montana Medicaid Expansion Waiver Extension and Amendment Application (Waiver).**

- ✓ DPHHS released the draft Waiver amendment and extension application for review and public comment on June 15, 2019.
  - ✓ DPHHS held an in-personal tribal consultation on the proposed Medicaid Expansion Changes on July 16, 2019.
  - ✓ DPHHS held in-person and on-line public hearings on the proposed Medicaid Expansion Changes July 15, 2019 in Helena and July 18, 2019 in Billings.
- ✓ The proposed Waiver was presented to the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Legislative Committee on July 30, 2019.
- ✓ DPHHS filed the Waiver application, including responses to public comment, with Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) for formal consideration on Aug 30, 2019.
  - ✓ CMS held a standard 30 day public comment period.

# Waiver Extension and Amendment Actions

## Ongoing and Upcoming

**CMS reports that the median time for approval of 1115 demonstration waivers in 2018 was 204 days.**

- DPHHS has begun drafting rule changes necessary to implement the proposed Waiver changes. These will be filed when CMS has completed the majority of their review.
- CMS is reviewing the Waiver application and asking DPHHS questions as they move through their review.
- DPHHS continues to meet with and respond to CMS questions on the Waiver application.
- CMS drafts and DPHHS agrees to standard terms and conditions of operating the Waiver.
- DPHHS drafts and CMS approves a Waiver implementation plan.

# Montana Medicaid Expansion Statewide Impacts

The Montana Medicaid Expansion program has improved access to quality, affordable health care for low-income Montanans and supported the State's economy.

## Effects on Health Care



As of 12/01/2019 Medicaid expansion provides health insurance for **84,845 adults, 8.1% of the state population.**



Medicaid expansion helps rural hospitals and providers to **keep their doors open.**



Over **50,000 Montanans** have received mental health or substance use services because of Medicaid expansion.



Nearly half of expansion enrollees **report improved general health** since becoming covered by the plan.

## Economic Effects



Medicaid expansion led to the creation of **5,300 new jobs annually** between 2016 and 2018.



**\$750 million taxpayer dollars** are returned to Montana communities each year due to Medicaid expansion.



Medicaid expansion has contributed to more low-income adults **joining the workforce.**

# Montana Medicaid Expansion Impacts in Indian Country

**Montana Medicaid Expansion program has increased access to health care among American Indian populations and improved the health care delivery system in Indian Country.**

- **American Indian/Alaskan Natives** comprise **17.5%** of those who have coverage under the HELP Program/Medicaid expansion, or 14,869 enrollees.
- Medicaid coverage **complements the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal Health System** by allowing access to any provider participating in the state's Medicaid program.
- HELP Program/Medicaid expansion revenue has allowed the IHS/Tribal Health System to **increase the types of health care services available** under their Purchased and Referred Care program.
- **\$250 million dollars per biennium** is added to the Indian Country health care system.
- This increased revenue helps **improve access to health care services** for American Indians covered by Medicaid Expansion, those not covered by Medicaid Expansion, those receiving some or all of their services from IHS/Tribal Health, and those not living near an Indian Health Care facility.

# Current Status of Montana Medicaid Expansion

**The Montana Medicaid Expansion program implemented under the Health and Economic Livelihood Act (HELP) continues to operate across the state.**

- The Montana Medicaid expansion program continues to include a premium requirement for some members. For those members, the premium is 2% of the member's income. Premiums increases in HB 658 will not go into effect until CMS approves the waiver application.
- Medicaid expansion members do not yet need to report their work or community engagement activities. These requirements cannot be implemented until CMS approves the waiver application. DPHHS will mail letters and make phone calls to every Montanan enrolled in the expansion program to tell them about these requirements before they start.
- As of 01/01/2020 Medicaid Expansion members (as well as Standard Medicaid Members) no longer have a copay, as required by HB 658.