

Abbreviated Public Notice

Georgia Pathways to Coverage 1115 Demonstration Waiver Extension

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) hereby notifies the public that it intends to submit a Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver Extension Application to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for Georgia Pathways to Coverage® (Georgia Pathways).

Pursuant to 42 CFR 431.408, DCH will provide the public the opportunity to review and provide input on the Section 1115 Waiver Extension Application. This notice provides details about the waiver submission and serves to open the 30-day public comment period, which closes on Thursday, February 20, 2025.

Summary

Under the Georgia Pathways to Coverage® Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver, Georgia continues to improve the access, affordability, and quality of healthcare for Georgians as well as encourage self-sufficiency through promotion of employment and employment-related activities.

The approved Demonstration, Georgia Pathways, introduces a new eligibility pathway for working Georgians who would otherwise be ineligible for Medicaid coverage in Georgia. To be considered eligible for coverage under Georgia Pathways, an individual must meet an hours and activities threshold of 80 hours per month of engagement in a qualifying activity (or combination of activities) such as employment, community service, or education, and have an income up to 100% of the FPL.

The State is seeking approval for an extension of the original Demonstration that has largely been preserved, with a few key changes. Georgia looks forward to maintaining the objectives of the Pathways program while advancing the goals of the Demonstration as approved. The proposed revisions to the program will improve the Pathways member experience, increase engagement, and provide support for participation in employment and employment-related activities.

The State seeks approval for the following changes to the Demonstration:

- Removal of monthly qualifying activity reporting as a requirement for participation; qualifying activity reporting will still be required at initial eligibility and annual renewal
- Addition of qualifying activity types for program eligibility
- Addition of a retroactive coverage policy, with coverage effective the first of the month in which the application was received
- Removal of premiums and Member Rewards Accounts
- Request reporting on a quarterly basis only per original Special Terms and Conditions

The State believes that the proposed changes will improve the member experience to participate in Pathways and provide more individuals with the opportunity to become acclimated to

participating in the insurance market. For example, removing the monthly reporting requirement will allow Care Management Organizations (CMOs) to focus their efforts on engaging members in employment-related activities (because qualifying activity reporting at annual renewal will continue to be a requirement), rather than monitoring the compliance of and outreaching to individuals on the monthly reporting requirements.

Public Hearings and Public Input Procedure

Two opportunities for public comment will be held via Zoom. DCH will accept oral comments at these meetings. There will be no in-person attendance at DCH. The meetings are as follows:

#1 Georgia Pathways to Coverage 1115 Demonstration Waiver Extension

Time: Jan 31, 2025 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81045671063?pwd=PBRq0qRcNGdWL7XsrKVg6m7kmNbI0J.1>

Meeting ID: 810 4567 1063

Passcode: 761994

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US

- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US

Meeting ID: 810 4567 1063

Passcode: 761994

#2 Georgia Pathways to Coverage 1115 Demonstration Waiver Extension

Time: Feb 10, 2025 03:00 PM- 5:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84265222720?pwd=laLcouT9Wf7gYKbI6TdhSL7GTL0AS2.1>

Meeting ID: 842 6522 2720

Passcode: 637269

One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,84265222720#,,,,*637269# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

- +1 309 205 3325 US
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Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Individuals wishing to comment in writing may do so on or before **Thursday, February 20, 2025** to: Shawn Walker c/o the Department of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. Comment letters must be postmarked by **Thursday, February 20, 2025** to be accepted. Individuals may submit comments via electronic mail to: Pathways.Comments25@dch.ga.gov. Please include “Pathways Comments” in the subject line of your e-mail. Comments will be available for review by submitting a request via email to: openrecordsrequest@dch.ga.gov. Please note that any comments submitted are subject to open records.

Locations to Access Copies of Public Notice and Waiver Application

This public notice, the full comprehensive public notice, and the demonstration application are also available on the Department’s website homepage, at <https://medicaid.georgia.gov>, as well as the Public Notices section of the Department’s website, at <https://dch.georgia.gov/meetings-notices/public-notices>. This public notice, the full comprehensive public notice, and the demonstration waiver application are also available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. A comprehensive statewide list of locations of all Division of Family and Children Services offices can be found at <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/locations>.

THIS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 21st DAY OF JANUARY 2025.

Russel Carlson, Commissioner