

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
RELEASE DATE: July 22, 2020**

**PROPOSED 12-MONTH EXTENSION REQUEST TO THE MEDI-CAL 2020
SECTION 1115 WAIVER**

This notice provides information of public interest regarding a proposed 12-month extension request to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for the Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115 waiver by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The Medi-Cal 2020 waiver was approved by CMS on December 30, 2015 and is effective through December 31, 2020.

Following the end of the waiver period, DHCS intended to implement [California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal](#) (CalAIM), a multi-year initiative to implement overarching policy changes across all Medi-Cal delivery systems. However, COVID-19 has greatly impacted all aspects of California's health care delivery system, and key partners and stakeholders including managed care plans, providers, and counties requested a delay in implementing CalAIM to focus on addressing the pandemic.

While the goals and objectives of CalAIM continue to be a high priority, DHCS officially announced the delay of CalAIM in May 2020. Because of the CalAIM delay, DHCS will submit a 12-month Section 1115 waiver extension request to CMS to ensure continuation of the important programs authorized through Medi-Cal 2020 as a bridge to their eventual transitions under CalAIM.

Following are the elements of the Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115 waiver demonstration that are proposed to continue under the 12-month extension:

- Medi-Cal Managed Care
- Whole Person Care Pilots
- Global Payment Program
- Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System
- Low-Income Pregnant Women
- Out of State Former Foster Care Youth
- Community-Based Adult Services
- Coordinated Care Initiative
- Dental Transformation Initiative
- Tribal Uncompensated Care
- Rady's California Children's Services Pilot
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly as an Alternative Delivery System in Select County Organized Health Systems

It is important to note that the Public Hospital Re-Design and Incentives in Medi-Cal (PRIME) program is not included in this extension request. PRIME will be

transitioning to the Medi-Cal Quality Incentive Program (QIP) over the next 12 months.

This proposal is intended to extend the current structure and objectives of the programs listed above with no changes to eligibility, benefits or cost sharing for beneficiaries. DHCS does not anticipate a significant increase or decrease in enrollment due to the waiver extension. The evaluation of the demonstration would be extended for an additional 12 months, with no changes. DHCS expects that this 12-month extension will not increase federal or state expenditures and may result in a net decrease in managed care expenditures due to intended changes to the capitated benefits schedule for Medi-Cal managed care.

DHCS requests input from health plans, counties, providers, beneficiaries, and other interested stakeholders concerning the proposed Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request, which is attached and posted on the [DHCS website](#).

The effective term of the proposed Medi-Cal 2020 extension is January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. All proposed extension requests are subject to approval by CMS.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

The proposed Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request is enclosed in this notice for public comment. DHCS requests input from health plans, counties, providers, beneficiaries, and other interested stakeholders concerning the proposed extension request.

DHCS will host the following public hearings to solicit stakeholder comments. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and to maximize opportunities for participation, all public hearings will be held via webinar.

- Wednesday, July 29, 2020 – DHCS Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs
 - 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 - For more information visit the [Indian Health Program webpage](#)
- Friday, August 7, 2020 – First Public Hearing
 - 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Register [here](#)
- Monday, August 10, 2020 – Second Public Hearing
 - 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
 - Register [here](#)

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request will be published at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Medi-Cal-2020-Extension.aspx>

You may request a copy of the proposed Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request or a copy of submitted public comments related to the Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request by requesting it in writing to the mailing or email addresses listed below. Please indicate “Medi-Cal 2020 12-Month Extension Request” in the subject line or message.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Director's Office
Attn: Oleg Istratiy & Angeli Lee
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to 1115waiver@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate “Medi-Cal 2020 12-Month Extension Request” in the subject line or message.

To be assured consideration prior to submission of the Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request to CMS, comments must be received no later than **August 21, 2020**. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after August 21, 2020, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of the Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request to CMS.