

10 Things You Need to Know about the Medicaid Demonstration

On January 9, 2017, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a Section 1115 Medicaid waiver, known in Washington State as the Medicaid Transformation Project Demonstration. This five-year contract with CMS authorizes up to \$1.5 billion in federal investments to promote innovative, sustainable and systemic changes that help improve the overall health of Washingtonians.

Here are the 10 things you need to know:

1. The demonstration is a part of the Health Care Authority's Healthier Washington Initiative.
2. The demonstration's goals over the next five years are to:
 - ✓ Integrate physical and behavioral health purchasing and service delivery
 - ✓ Convert 90% of Medicaid provider payments to reward outcomes
 - ✓ Implement population health strategies that improve health equity
 - ✓ Provide targeted services that address the needs of our aging populations and address the key determinants of health
3. The demonstration is comprised of three initiatives:
 - ✓ Initiative 1: Transformation through Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs)
 - ✓ Initiative 2: Long-term Services and Supports of the aging population
 - ✓ Initiative 3: Foundational Community Support Services
4. Under Initiative 1, ACHs must coordinate with a wide range of community partners to carry out at least four regional transformation projects (two required and at least two chosen by ACHs, with input from the community), aimed at driving regional and systemic population health improvement.
5. An independent assessor will review and make recommendations regarding the approval of regional transformation project plan applications; the state will work with the independent assessor to develop a project plan review tool.
6. Funding related to the projects are based on achieving community health milestones laid out in the project plans, and will be disbursed through a financial executor.
7. The state will facilitate engagement and coordination with tribal governments and will work with them to assess the demonstration for impacts, including unintended consequences, on tribal communities.
8. Long-term Services and Supports includes reimbursement for services to support unpaid caregivers such as unpaid caregiver assistance services, training, education, specialized medical equipment and other supports; and a personal care benefit for those without a caregiver.
9. Foundational Community Support Services provide reimbursement for targeted Medicaid benefits to help clients with complex needs obtain and maintain housing and employment stability.
10. At the end of five years, the state must demonstrate that the initiatives are sustainable; an independent party will conduct an evaluation of the demonstration.

New State General Fund dollars will not be needed for waiver activities.