



Department
of Health


**1115 Medicaid Redesign Team Waiver:
Continuous Medicaid and Child Health Plus Eligibility for
Children up to Age Six 1115 Amendment Public Hearing**

February 2024

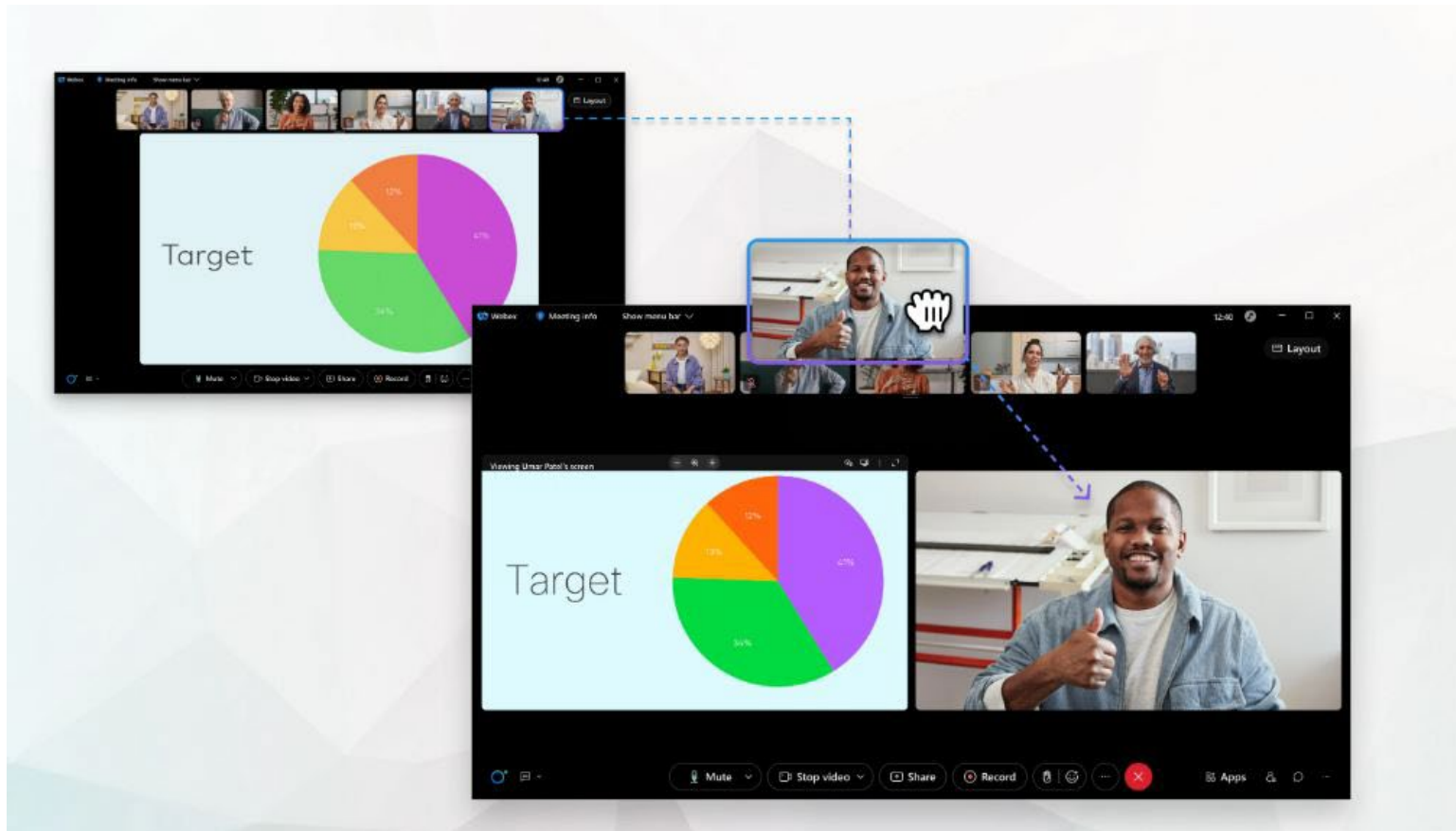
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Agenda

1115 MRT Waiver Amendment Public Forum

- Public Hearing Format
- 1115 Demonstration Waiver Overview
- 1115 Amendment Overview: Continuous Eligibility for Children Ages 0-6
- Public Comment

Public Hearing Format

The State is hosting this meeting to comply with the public forum requirements detailed in 42 CFR § 431.420(c) and in the Special Terms and Conditions (STC) for the Medicaid Redesign Team 1115 Demonstration Waiver.

The Purpose of today's public forum is to:

1. Provide information about the proposed Continuous Eligibility for Children up to Age 6 1115 Amendment.
2. Afford the public an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed amendment.



A **recording** and **transcription** of this forum will be available on the MRT Waiver website 7-10 days after the forum. **Language translation** is available upon request.

1115 Background





- Section 1115 Demonstration Waivers grant flexibility to states for **innovative projects that advance the objectives of the Medicaid program.**
- **Authorized under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, these waivers:**
 1. Give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the authority to waive certain provisions and regulations for Medicaid programs, and
 2. Allow Medicaid funds be used in ways that are not otherwise allowed under federal rules (e.g., making certain investments eligible for federal match).
- Typically, 1115 waivers are approved for 3-5 years.



New York's 1115 Waiver

- The **NYS Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) Waiver** (formerly the Partnership Plan) has been in effect since 1997.
- New York's 1115 MRT Waiver was last renewed on April 1, 2022, and is effective through March 31, 2027.
- The proposed amendment is an amendment to New York's existing 1115 Demonstration Waiver.

The goals of the MRT Waiver are as follows:

- ✓  Improve access to health care for the Medicaid population;
- ✓  Improve the quality of health services delivered;
- ✓  Expand coverage to additional low-income New Yorkers with resources generated through managed care efficiencies; and
- ✓  **NEW:** Advance health equity, reduce health disparities, and support the delivery of health-related social need (HRSN) services.

Continuous Eligibility for Children up to Age Six



New York State is seeking to amend the 1115 MRT Waiver to authorize continuous eligibility for children in the Medicaid and Child Health Plus (CHP) Programs, up to their sixth birthday.

- **Goals:** Prevent gaps in coverage, improve continuity of care, and promote health equity in the state.
- New York would be the fourth state to offer continuous eligibility for children under six, along with Oregon, Washington, and New Mexico.
- We received strong support for continuous eligibility for children during the NYHER Public Comment period in 2022.

New York's Current Continuous Eligibility Policy

12-Months Continuous Eligibility:

- Since 1999, the New York has had **continuous 12-month eligibility for all members**
- While the current policy is effective in maintaining coverage during the 12 months between redeterminations, coverage losses at redetermination continue to be an issue for children in Medicaid and Child Health Plus.

Income Eligibility for Children up to Age 6:

Current Income Eligibility Criteria	
Eligibility Group	Income Level
Children in Medicaid 0–1–Year–Old	223% FPL
Children in Medicaid 1 up to 6 Years Old	154% FPL
Children in Child Health Plus 0 up to 6 Years Old	400% FPL

This proposal will not change income eligibility limits for Medicaid or Child Health Plus for the initial eligibility determination.

Impact of Continuous Eligibility Change



Continuous eligibility for children up to age six would allow a child to **remain enrolled in Medicaid or CHP** regardless of changes in household information, until their sixth birthday.

Under this 1115 Amendment:

- The State will continue to make renewal determinations each year.
- Children under age six will remain eligible for Medicaid or CHP, regardless of changes to household information at redetermination (e.g., changes in household income).
- Certain exceptions will apply (e.g., child moves out of state or was enrolled in error).
- It is still important to keep household information up-to-date.

Benefits to Members:

- Easier to develop care plans for health, behavioral health, and health-related services
- Avoid costly and disruptive changes in coverage
- Improve short- and long-term health outcomes

Public Comment

Guidelines for Public Comments

- A list of the pre-registered commenters will indicate the order in which you will be called on to speak.
- A member of the DOH team will call your name and manually unmute your line to allow you to provide your comment.
- Comments will be timed, please limit your comment to five minutes.

Written comments will be accepted through **March 8, 2024**, by email at 1115waivers@health.ny.gov or by mail at:

Department of Health
Office of Health Insurance Programs
Waiver Management Unit
99 Washington Ave., 12th fl. (Suite 1208)
Albany, NY 12210

**Questions or
Comments?**

**For further information,
please contact us at:
1115waivers@health.ny.gov**

Resources

 **New York 1115 Waiver Website**

 **Current Special Terms and Conditions**

 **Continuous Eligibility for Children Ages 0-6 1115 Amendment Application**



If you have questions regarding New York's 1115 Waiver or the proposed Continuous Eligibility amendment, please contact us at: 1115waivers@health.ny.gov

ONE MINUTE REMAINING

TIME IS UP