July 3, 2019: Update on Idaho Medicaid expansion

The Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) continues working toward the implementation of the expanded Medicaid program, which will go live on Jan. 1, 2020, as scheduled.

DHW plans to submit all necessary waivers to the necessary federal agencies by this fall.

Although the exact strategy and timing of the waiver submissions is still being developed, the state will submit 1332 waiver and 1115 waiver applications. The 1332 waiver to offer individuals a choice of coverage was posted for public comment on May 31st and the public comment period ended on June 30. The 1115 waiver was posted for public comment on July 3rd.

The Idaho 1332 waiver is specifically related to federal regulations around the tax credit, and it must be approved through The Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight (CCIIO). This waiver, if approved, would give eligible Idahoans the option to stay on an exchange plan and continue receiving a tax credit to help pay for premiums or move to expanded Medicaid.

The Idaho 1115 waiver is a request to waive specific Medicaid regulations and would allow Idaho to try new approaches to serving Idahoans. The 1115 waiver, and its amendments, will focus on the sideboards outlined below:

- **Work requirements** – Would require individuals in the expansion population who are 19-59 years old to be working 20 hours/week or volunteering or enrolled in school to receive Medicaid coverage. Exemptions include mental or physical illness, disability, caring for child/other, tribal members, or receiving substance use disorder treatment.

- **Mental illness treatment** – Would allow individuals in an institution, with a mental health diagnosis, to receive mental health and substance use services and to bill Medicaid for those services.

- **Family planning services** – Would require individuals seeking family planning services to have a referral from a medical home if the provider is outside established medical home.

- **Coverage choice** – Would allow individuals with income of 100 to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to maintain a tax credit to purchase health insurance on the state-based marketplace or decline the tax credit and choose to enroll in Medicaid.
DHW staff continue negotiations with the federal government to determine which waivers are needed as well as the terms of those waivers. A waiver application typically takes 6–9 months. The approval process can take 9-18 months depending on the complexity of the waiver.

The waivers process will not delay enrollment or coverage for expanded Medicaid.

The information below outlines the work done by the department by July 1, 2019.

**Medicaid state plan amendment**

Here is what has been accomplished to date:

- Feb. 15, 2019: The Medicaid state plan amendment was submitted to the federal government. The federal government had 90 days to respond.

- May 16: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services sent DHW a request for additional information on the state plan amendment. When DHW submits its response to the questions, which will happen as soon as possible, the federal government has an additional 90 days to respond.

**Medicaid expansion sideboards and waivers**

Here is what has been accomplished to date:

- April 15: First meeting between DHW, the Idaho Department of Insurance (DOI), and federal partners to determine options for waivers.

- April 16: DHW and DOI began drafting waivers with guidance from federal partners, but negotiations are ongoing.

- April 25: DHW and DOI finalized a contract for waiver services with Milliman Actuarial Firm to help determine financial impacts of waivers. DHW provided data to Milliman to begin analysis.

- May 2: DHW and DOI met with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to discuss the scope of the waivers.
• May 9: DHW and DOI met with CMS to discuss the Coverage Choice Waiver for those Idahoans with income of 100-138 percent of the federal poverty level who currently purchase health insurance on the state-based health insurance exchange. They will become eligible for Medicaid after Jan. 1, 2020, if they choose, based on a sideboard in Senate Bill 1204.

• May 9: DHW, DOI, and Milliman discuss need for actuarial analysis of the Coverage Choice Waiver.

• May 13: Required notice was sent to tribes outlining the DHW’s intention to seek waivers for the sideboards requested in Senate Bill 1204. The notice allows tribes 30 days to request consultation or discussion regarding policies contained in the notice. Tribes must respond by June 13th. DHW will schedule a meeting upon request but must wait 60 days from the date the notice was sent to submit a waiver.

• May 31: The 1332 coverage choice waiver was released for public comment. The public comment period closed on June 30.

• July 3: The initial 1115 Medicaid waiver was released for public comment. The public comment period closes on August 7th.

Public comment opportunities

Specific dates will be shared when the department has more information, but for tentative planning purposes:
• May 31-June 30: The 1332 coverage choice waiver was released for public comment.
• July 3: The initial 1115 Medicaid waiver has been released for public comment.

Key dates in the future:

• Nov. 1, 2019: Enrollment for expanded Medicaid will begin.
• Jan. 1, 2020: Coverage for expanded Medicaid will begin.