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## NOTICES OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Notices of Public Information contain corrections that agencies wish to make to their notices of rulemaking; miscellaneous rulemaking information that does not fit into any other category of notice; and other types of information required by statute to be published in the Register.

Because of the variety of Notices of Public Information, the Office of the Secretary of State has not established a specific publishing format for these notices. We do however require agencies to use a numbered list of questions and answers and follow our filing requirements by presenting receipts with electronic and paper copies.

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

#### ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM - ADMINISTRATION

#### 1115 RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION WAIVER AMENDMENT REQUEST

[M21-16]

1. **Name of the Agency:** Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Administration (AHCCCS)
2. **The public information:** AHCCCS 1115 Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request

Pursuant to the Special Terms and Conditions of Arizona's approved demonstration project, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Arizona's Medicaid agency, is required to provide a public notice consistent with 42 C.F.R. § 431.408 of its intent to submit a Section 1115 Waiver amendment to the Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). AHCCCS is requesting an amendment to the 1115 Research and Demonstration Waiver to seek waiver and expenditure authority to implement the AHCCCS Housing and Health Opportunities (H2O) demonstration. The goal of the AHCCCS Housing and Health Opportunities (H2O) demonstration is to enhance and expand housing services and interventions for AHCCCS members who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

#### **I. Proposed Delivery System under the Demonstration**

The delivery system for persons impacted by this proposed 1115 Waiver amendment will not vary from the AHCCCS' current program features as described in the current State Plan and demonstration.

#### **II. Proposed Eligibility Requirements under the Demonstration**

Arizona's 1115 Waiver amendment request will target AHCCCS members who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and who have at least one or more of the following conditions or circumstances:

- Individuals with a Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) designation or a general mental health and/or substance use disorder (GMH/SU);
- Individuals determined high risk or high cost based on service utilization or health history, including individuals with repeated avoidable emergency department visits or crisis utilization;
- Individuals who are pregnant;
- Individuals who have a chronic condition, and/or co-morbid conditions (e.g., end stage renal disease, cirrhosis of the liver, HIV/AIDS, co-occurring mental health conditions, physical health conditions, and/or substance use disorder);
- Individuals at high risk of experiencing homelessness upon release from an institutional setting (e.g., Institutions for Mental Disease, inpatient hospitals, correctional facility); and
- Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCSS) members who are medically able to reside in their own home with wraparound services who require affordable housing in order to transition from an institutional setting.

#### **III. Proposed Benefit Coverage under the Demonstration**

AHCCCS is requesting waiver and expenditure authority to enhance and expand housing services and interventions for AHCCCS members who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. With these additional resources, the agency will seek to:

- Increase positive health and wellbeing outcomes for target populations including the stabilization of mental health conditions, reduction in substance use, improvement in the utilization of primary care and prevention services, and increased member satisfaction.
- Reduce the cost of care for individuals successfully housed through decreased utilization of crisis services, emergency department utilization, and inpatient hospitalization.
- Support state efforts to reduce homelessness and improve ongoing housing stability.

These goals will be achieved through the following three key strategies.

#### **Strategy 1: Strengthen homeless outreach and service engagement**

- Offer outreach and engagement services, allowing Medicaid providers to provide dedicated outreach staff with behavioral health qualifications and experience to identify and successfully connect all eligible or potentially eligible members experiencing homelessness to available services and supports, including transitional living arrangements and rental subsidies.



- Strengthen the coordination between the community, governmental agencies, and providers when an individual leaves an institutional setting and connect the individual to available housing supports and services. Such activities would also include “in-reach” or co-location of outreach or housing navigation within key access or transition points in the behavioral and health care system, or other mainstream settings including emergency rooms, inpatient behavioral health facilities, jails, or other crisis facilities.
- Enhance and support data collection and administrative coordination with other systems of care including homeless programs, justice and correctional systems, and other state agency programs to foster informed care coordination and the maximization of available resources.

**Strategy 2: Secure funding for housing for members who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness**

- Fund short-term, transitional housing (up to 18 months) for individuals leaving an institutional setting, allowing for the provision of Medicaid compensable intensive pre-housing wraparound services, and stabilization in a temporary setting prior to moving into permanent housing.
- Expand the agency’s ability to offer financial assistance for move-in costs or Community Transition Services beyond those members enrolled with the ALTCS program (e.g., deposits, fees, and furniture).
- Fund the provision of eviction prevention services to assist members in maintaining tenancies (e.g., payment for back rents, fees, or charges to avoid immediate eviction).

**Strategy 3: Enhance individualized wraparound housing services and supports to ensure housing stability as a platform to leverage improved health outcomes and reduce recidivism**

- Expand the agency’s ability to pay for home modification (e.g., installation of ramps and other home repairs or upgrades) beyond members currently enrolled in ALTCS to prevent long term placement in an institutional setting.
- Expand the agency’s ability to pay for pre-tenancy and tenancy supportive services (e.g., housing navigation and skills training to teach independent living skills) to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

**IV. Proposed Cost Sharing Requirements under the Demonstration**

The cost sharing requirements for persons impacted by this proposed demonstration amendment will not change from the AHCCS’ current program features as described in the current State Plan and demonstration.

**V. Hypothesis and Evaluation Parameters of the Demonstration**

AHCCCS will test the following objectives and hypotheses under the proposed 1115 Waiver amendment request.

*Objectives and hypotheses begin on next page.*



| Objectives   | Proposed Hypotheses   | Potential Approaches   |
|--|---|--|
| <p>The AHCCCS Housing and Health Opportunities (H2O) demonstration will increase housing attainment and stabilization, positive health and wellbeing outcomes for target populations, reduce the cost of care for individuals successfully housed, and support state efforts to reduce homelessness and improve ongoing housing stability.</p> | <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will improve health outcomes for AHCCCS members.</p>  | <p>Data will be drawn from a variety of sources including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member survey</li> <li>• State eligibility and enrollment data</li> <li>• Claims/encounter data</li> <li>• Administrative program data (PMMIS)</li> <li>• T-MSIS</li> <li>• National/regional benchmarks</li> <li>• Key informant interviews &amp; focus groups</li> <li>• Leasing and housing data from AHCCCS housing programs.</li> <li>• Permanent supportive housing fidelity reporting</li> <li>• Data from Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other system coordination</li> </ul> |
|  | <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will improve management of behavioral health conditions for AHCCCS members.</p>   |  |
|  | <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will improve management of chronic conditions for AHCCCS members.</p>   |  |
|  | <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will decrease avoidable hospital utilization including emergency department utilization.</p>  |  |
|  | <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will yield improved member satisfaction with care.</p>  |  |
|  | <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will reduce homeless of AHCCCS members, increase timely housing placement, improve ongoing housing stability, and reduce homeless recidivism for AHCCCS members.</p>  |  |
|  | <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will increase engagement and assessment of unenrolled but eligible chronically homeless members in the homeless population.</p>                                       |  |
|  | <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will yield cost-effective care for AHCCCS members.</p>  |  |
|  | <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will reduce length of stay and cost of care in Behavioral Health Residential Facilities (BHRF) and other residential treatment facilities for target populations.</p> |  |
|  | <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will increase utilization of primary care and preventative health services.</p>   |  |
| <p>The AHCCCS H2O demonstration will improve discharge coordination of identified homeless members and reduce discharges to homelessness.</p>  |   |  |



**VI. Waiver and Expenditure Authorities**

The table below summarizes the authorities AHCCCS is seeking under this 1115 Waiver amendment request.

| Waiver Authority Requested   | Brief Description   |
|--|---|
| Section 1902(a)(10)(B)<br>Amount, duration and scope of services, and comparability          | To the extent necessary to enable the state to limit housing services and supports under the AHCCCS Housing and Health Opportunities (H2O) demonstration to certain targeted groups of AHCCCS beneficiaries.  |
| Expenditure authority for services not covered under section 1905 of the Social Security Act | To the extent necessary to enable the state to claim federal financial participation for expenditures for housing services and supports, to the extent not encompassed under the Section 1905(a) definition of medical assistance. This includes, but is not limited to, expenditures for room and board that are otherwise not compensable under the State Plan. |

**VII. Public Comment Submission Process**

All public hearings (also called community forums) where the public can provide comments and questions about the proposed 1115 Waiver amendment request will be held electronically to promote physical distancing and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The meetings will have online video streaming and telephonic conference capabilities to ensure statewide accessibility and will be held during the following times:

**Community Forum Meeting # 1**

**Date:** March 31, 2021

**Time:** 1:00-3:00 p.m. AZ time

**Zoom Conference Link:**

<https://ahcccs.zoom.us/j/89469967126?pwd=Q2FmOUtBZVA4UjVHcjViZUdEVmxRdz09>

**Passcode:** AHCCCS2!

**Call-in Information:**

- +1 408 638 0968; or
- +1 669 900 6833; or
- +1 253 215 8782; or
- +1 346 248 7799; or
- +1 646 876 9923; or
- +1 301 715 8592; or
- +1 312 626 6799; or
- 877 853 5257 (Toll Free); or
- 888 475 4499 (Toll Free); or
- 833 548 0276 (Toll Free); or
- 833 548 0282 (Toll Free).

**Webinar ID:** 894 6996 7126

**Passcode:** 65647117

**Community Forum Meeting # 2**

**Date:** April 8, 2021

**Time:** 2:00-4:00 p.m. AZ time

**Zoom Conference Link:**

<https://ahcccs.zoom.us/j/88263070979?pwd=bmdFcHlkWjE1UFNabDE3WkF1dWU1UT09>

**Passcode:** AHCCCS2!

**Call-in Information:**

- +1 346 248 7799; or
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- +1 669 900 6833; or
- +1 253 215 8782; or
- +1 312 626 6799; or
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- +1 301 715 8592; or



833 548 0282 (Toll Free); or  
877 853 5257 (Toll Free); or  
888 475 4499 (Toll Free); or  
833 548 0276 (Toll Free).

**Webinar ID:** 882 6307 0979

**Passcode:** 10613032

**Arizona State Medicaid Advisory Committee (SMAC) Meeting**

**Date:** April 14, 2021

**Time:** 1:00-3:00 p.m. AZ time

**Zoom Conference Link:**

<https://ahcccs.zoom.us/j/89849751173?pwd=b2xKVEN0elo4eVo0eHlFQU4yK1hMOT09>

**Passcode:** SMAC2021!

**Call-in Information:**

833 548 0282 (Toll Free); or

877 853 5257 (Toll Free).

**Webinar ID:** 898 4975 1173

**Audio Passcode:** 15622777

**Special Tribal Consultation**

**Date:** April 5, 2021

**Time:** Noon-2:00 p.m. AZ time

**Zoom Registration Link:**

[https://ahcccs.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NgCnjmcJQ2Wd01kHq0lsbA](https://ahcccs.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NgCnjmcJQ2Wd01kHq0lsbA)

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+1 646 876 9923; or

+1 301 715 8592; or

833 548 0282 (Toll Free); or

877 853 5257 (Toll Free); or

888 475 4499 (Toll Free); or

833 548 0276 (Toll Free).

**Webinar ID:** 854 1196 6314

**Passcode:** 77045474

Comments and questions about the proposed 1115 Waiver amendment request can also be submitted by email to: [waiverpublicinput@azahcccs.gov](mailto:waiverpublicinput@azahcccs.gov) or by mail to: AHCCCS, c/o Division of Community Advocacy and Intergovernmental Relations (DCAIR); 801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200, Phoenix, AZ 85034. All comments must be received by **May 3, 2021**. More information about the proposed 1115 Waiver amendment, including the proposed 1115 Waiver application and the full public notice and public input process, can be found on <https://www.azahcccs.gov/HousingWaiverRequest>.