

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Abbreviated Notice of Proposed Medicaid and Children's
Health Insurance Program**

**Substance Use Disorder Demonstration Waiver Extension Pursuant to
Section 1115 of the Social Security Act**

Pursuant to section 17b-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes and 42 C.F.R. § 431.408, the Department of Social Services (DSS) provides notice that it intends to submit to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Demonstration Waiver Extension pursuant to Section 1115 of the Social Security Act for Connecticut's Medicaid Program and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (Demonstration). Connecticut is seeking federal approval to extend its Medicaid SUD Demonstration Waiver, effective on April 1, 2027, to March 31, 2032. The Extension requests no changes to the SUD portion of the demonstration, except for a minor technical correction to the HUSKY A Medicaid eligibility group, for budget neutrality, to account for increased costs associated with non-SUD services. All pending amendments, including the amendment to implement a "Re- entry Initiative" to better support individuals' reentry from incarceration to the community (including addressing social determinants of health (SDoH) for individuals reentering the community), are proposed to be incorporated into the amendment (or extended authorization if the amendment is approved prior to the renewal).

Connecticut's Draft 1115 Demonstration Extension and public hearing information are posted to the DSS website at this link:

https://portal.ct.gov/dss/health-and-home-care/substance-use-disorder-demonstration-project?language=en_US

Please check this website regularly for updates. **Public comment and public hearing information are included at the bottom of this notice.** The public comment period will be open for 30 days from December 17, 2025, to January 18, 2026.

Description of Demonstration Waiver

This Demonstration was originally approved on April 14, 2022, and was the result of a collaborative effort among various State agencies and other partners, including the three partner State agencies of the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership: DSS, Connecticut's single State agency for Medicaid and CHIP; the Department of Children and Families, the lead State agency for children's behavioral health; and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the single State agency for adult behavioral health. Connecticut's Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) includes the state's Medicaid program and CHIP.

The Demonstration was a comprehensive project to enhance the State's SUD service system in accordance with federal guidance. The Demonstration enables federal financial participation (FFP) Medicaid and CHIP matching funds for individuals receiving SUD services residing in Institutions for Mental Diseases that would ordinarily not be covered under federal law.

The Demonstration implements CMS guidance for SUD 1115 demonstration waivers, set forth in CMS State Medicaid Director Letter (SMD) #17-003, “Strategies to Address the Opioid Epidemic”, posted on the CMS website at this link: <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/smd17003.pdf>. Additional information about SUD 1115 demonstrations, including a list of other states that have already established a SUD 1115 demonstration, is posted to the CMS website at this link:

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/substance-use-disorder-section-1115-demonstration-opportunity>.

The Re-entry Initiative portion of the Demonstration is the result of a collaborative effort among various state agencies and other partners, including DSS, Connecticut’s single State agency for Medicaid and CHIP; the Department of Correction, the single State agency for the administration of carceral facilities; the Judicial Branch, the Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Housing, and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the lead State agency for adult behavioral health. On March 27, 2024, the State submitted an amendment application requesting authority for a reentry initiative and SDoH, and it is currently pending with CMS. The state is seeking the authorities detailed in the amendment application as a part of this extension. The Re-entry Initiative is intended to be effective on or after July 1, 2026, upon CMS approval, with a renewal under this Extension from April 1, 2027, through March 31, 2032.

The Re-entry Initiative implements CMS’ guidance for Re-entry 1115 demonstration waivers, set forth in CMS SMD # 23-003, “Opportunities to Test Transition-Related Strategies to Support Community Reentry and Improve Care Transitions for Individuals Who Are Incarcerated”, posted on the CMS website at this link: <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/smd23003.pdf>.

The State also intends to help address unmet needs related to a lack of adequate housing support, consistent with CMS guidance on SDoH, available on the CMS website at this link: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/health-related-social-needs>.

SUD Program Description, Including Affected CMAP Members

CMAP enrollment did not change as a result of this Demonstration. As detailed above, the Demonstration enables CMAP coverage for individuals with SUD, who are residing in Institutions for Mental Diseases for which coverage would otherwise be prohibited under federal law. The Demonstration ensured that enhancements in the SUD service system were implemented. In accordance with CMS guidance, the Demonstration ensures that a complete American Society of Addiction Medicine levels of care service array is available as part of an essential continuum of care for Medicaid-enrolled individuals with opioid use disorder and other

SUDs.

Re-entry Initiative and SDoH Program Description

The Re-entry Initiative enables Medicaid coverage and FFP using Medicaid and CHIP matching funds for adults incarcerated in correctional centers (jails and courthouses) and correctional institutions (prisons), and for youth detained in juvenile and community residential centers throughout the State receiving a targeted benefit package that would ordinarily not be covered under federal law. This Re-entry Initiative ensures a continuum of care strategy that enables robust coordination, service provision, and community connections after release.

The SDoH program enables Medicaid coverage and FFP for the eligible reentry population using Medicaid and CHIP matching funds. Services to address SDoH include rent/temporary housing, utility costs, pre-tenancy and tenancy sustaining services, housing transition navigation services, one-time transition and moving costs, housing deposits, medically necessary equipment, and medically necessary home accessibility and remediation services. Connecticut also requests authority to claim FFP in SDoH infrastructure investments to support the development and implementation of Justice Initiative SDoH services, not to exceed 15% of the total Justice Initiative SDoH spend.

Where the Demonstration is Posted

The Demonstration Extension and related materials, including the Demonstration Waiver Extension, Interim Evaluation, and Budget Neutrality Summary, are posted on the DSS website at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Substance-Use-Disorder-Demonstration-Project>. Paper or electronic copies of the extension application and related materials may be obtained by emailing a request to Public.Comment.DSS@ct.gov or by writing to DSS, Medical Policy Unit, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105. The proposed Demonstration Extension and related materials may also be obtained upon request at any DSS field office or the Town of Vernon Social Services Department.

Where and When to Submit Written Comments

To send comments about the Demonstration Extension, please email:

Public.Comment.DSS@ct.gov or write to: Department of Social Services, Medical Policy Unit, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105. In any correspondence, please reference "SUD 1115 Demonstration Waiver Extension." Please also send any other questions about the Demonstration to this contact information, including requests for a copy of the Demonstration (and/or related materials).

Anyone may send DSS written comments about the Demonstration Extension. Written comments must be received by DSS at the above contact information no later than January 18, 2026 (which is more than 30 days after the date of the publication of this notice in the Connecticut Law Journal). Please note that comments received will also be posted to the same website referenced above.

Public Hearings

In addition to the opportunity for anyone to send DSS written comments noted above, there will also be one in-person hearing (with an optional virtual platform for people to attend remotely) and one electronically convened public hearing to afford anyone the opportunity to provide DSS with verbal comments. Members of the public will be invited to make comments in-person via the telephone or the virtual platform, Zoom, as follows:

Public Hearing with optional virtual Webinar Hosted by DSS

December 22, 2025

Time: 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

In-person at: 55 Farmington Avenue, First Floor, Room 1011, Hartford, CT 06105.

Web Conference/Teleconference:

Topic: Substance Use Disorder Demonstration Waiver Extension Public Hearing

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86785379034?pwd=WKIMSuKbiUuDK2Dun4TXSnBB0B3r2z.1>

Meeting ID: 867 8537 9034

Passcode: 988428

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86785379034#,,,,*988428# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,86785379034#,,,,*988428# US

Join instructions

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/86785379034/invitations?signature=9yOtksi4kL1dnL-QybU-89TMqQE1JfziiQgIIWNSIM8>

Public Hearing Convened by the Connecticut General Assembly Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council

January 9, 2026

Time: 1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97350054937?pwd=JCoO97AjaR2cbVSgXNEZjAx5lV2nt2.1>

Meeting ID: 973 5005 4937

Passcode: 919295

One tap mobile:

+19292056099,,97350054937#,,,,*919295# US (New York)

+13017158592,,97350054937#,,,,*919295# US (Washington DC)

State of Connecticut Department of Social Services
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Join instructions

https://zoom.us/join/97350054937?signature=sah8AktJXumdvo7QBKhrk2VkHzH_OLQYL9ZZxfXxE1nU