

1115 waiver amendment summary

On March 31, Washington State [submitted a request](#) to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for flexibility and relief under our existing [Medicaid Transformation Project](#) 1115 waiver. This is a separate request from [the 1135 waiver](#) and [supplemental emergency 1115 waiver](#) requests submitted to CMS in March.

The request addresses the need for flexibility within the current waiver, including relief on performance measures, value-based purchasing attainment, and flexibilities for Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs) and Indian Health Care Providers (IHCPs). The request also temporarily expands and alters some services and processes for our Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) and Foundational Community Supports (FCS) programs, as well as service and payment flexibility under the substance use disorder (SUD) waiver amendment.

Summary of key elements of the 1115 waiver amendment

Statewide considerations:

- Relief from certain statewide performance metrics, such as emergency department visits, that are likely to be higher due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Relief from attainment of value-based purchasing targets so that healthcare providers don't have to take on additional risk during this time.

Initiative 1: Transformation through ACHs and IHCPs

- Relax requirements on project implementation and reporting during the COVID-19 pandemic, so ACHs and IHCPs can nimbly respond to the needs in their communities.
- Allow flexibility and mitigate performance and payment challenges as ACHs, IHCPs, and the state respond to COVID-19 to support providers and the community.

Initiative 2: LTSS

- Allow services to be delivered over the phone or through other audio/video options.
- Authorize transportation through the [Medicaid Alternative Care \(MAC\)](#) and [Tailored Supports for Older Adults \(TSOA\)](#) programs to transport clients to safe locations.
- Provide flexibility on payments to providers, and more flexibility to determine whether clients are eligible for MAC and TSOA.

Initiative 3: FCS

- Targeted help for clients receiving supportive housing and supported employment services, including:
 - Purchase of laptops and phones.
 - Housing deposit and screening fee assistance.
 - Purchase of personal protective equipment.
- Targeted help for providers delivering supportive housing and supported employment services, including:
 - Support for seeing clients via telephone or internet.
 - Trauma-informed support debrief.
 - Payment flexibility.

Initiative 4: SUD waiver

- Additional payment flexibility for providers, including detox and withdrawal management.
- Ability to purchase equipment, such as phones and laptops, to help providers reduce disease transmission in inpatient environments.