

## Snapshot of the Medicaid Transformation Project renewal

Washington State is pursuing a [five-year renewal](#) of the Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver, called the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP). MTP allows our state to improve Washington's health care system using federal Medicaid funding.

Washington State is currently in the last year of the current MTP waiver, which ends December 31, 2022. If approved, the MTP renewal will **begin January 1, 2023, and end December 31, 2027**. All work under MTP benefits people enrolled in Apple Health.

### What is Apple Health (Medicaid)?

Apple Health is Washington State's Medicaid program, which provides health coverage to about two million people. Medicaid is a federal program administered by each state. The federal government helps pay for the program, creates rules for how the program works, and sets minimum standards for eligibility and benefits.

### What is a Medicaid waiver?

A state must apply for a Medicaid waiver when it wants to make changes from normal guidelines. The state can ask the federal government (through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)) for this waiver. A state request to waive certain regulations for greater flexibility around Medicaid eligibility and benefits, how care is delivered, and more. CMS usually only approves waivers for a few years at a time.

To continue to improve Apple Health, the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) and other state agencies and partners are developing an application to renew the current MTP waiver. This application is one of several ways the state is working toward whole-person care for all people in Washington.

Programs in the MTP renewal support the following three goals:

1. [Expanding coverage and access to care, ensuring people can get the care they need](#)
  - Continuous Apple Health enrollment for children
  - Re-entry coverage and services for people entering or exiting prison, jail, or other correctional institutions
  - Expanded Apple Health coverage after pregnancy
  - Supports for people receiving substance use disorder and mental health treatment
2. [Advancing whole person primary, preventive, and home- and community-based care](#)
  - Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC) and Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA) programs, plus new LTSS supports
  - Behavioral Health integration assessment
3. [Accelerating care delivery and payment innovation focused on health-related social needs](#)
  - Strategies to address health-related social needs (evolution of Initiative 1)
  - Foundational Community Supports

[Read more details about the MTP renewal.](#)

See the table below for a snapshot of the programs that support each MTP renewal goal.

## Goal 1: expanding coverage and access to care, ensuring people can get the care they need

### Continuous Medicaid enrollment for children

This new program would allow all Medicaid-enrolled children in Washington with family incomes below 215 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to remain enrolled in Medicaid **until age six**.

[Learn more about continuous enrollment.](#)

### Extending coverage for postpartum services

Under this new program, people would remain eligible for Medicaid coverage until 12 months after their pregnancy ends, regardless of citizenship status.

[Learn more about postpartum coverage.](#)

### Re-entry coverage after incarceration

This new program would restore Medicaid coverage for people leaving prison, jail, or another correctional facility up to 30 days prior to release. This would enable a smooth transition and help people access critical care upon release.

[Learn more about re-entry coverage.](#)

### SUD and mental health IMD coverage

These programs will continue to allow Washington State to use federal money for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services in facilities that are defined as institutions for mental disease (IMDs). Without these programs, Apple Health wouldn't be able to cover inpatient treatment at IMD facilities for most people.

[Learn more about SUD and mental health IMD coverage.](#)

## Goal 2: advancing whole-person primary, preventive, and home- and community-based care

### Long-term services and supports (LTSS)

LTSS supports Washington's aging population and family caregivers who provide care for their loved ones. Current programs include Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC) and Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA) programs, both of which expand care options for older people so they can continue living at home and assist unpaid family caregivers.

[Learn more about existing LTSS programs.](#)

### New LTSS elements

Four new elements will allow the state to compensate legal guardians for individuals transitioning in or out of facilities; allow presumptive eligibility for Medicaid LTSS benefits; enable coordinated personal care services; and provide rental subsidies for certain people who use LTSS.

[Learn more about new LTSS elements.](#)

## Goal 3: accelerating care delivery and payment innovation focused on health-related social needs

### Foundational Community Supports (FCS)

FCS works with a variety of agencies that provide supportive housing and supported employment services to the state's most vulnerable Medicaid beneficiaries with complex care needs. These services are designed to promote self-sufficiency and recovery by helping participants find and maintain stable housing and employment. The renewal would make minor changes to extend eligibility for FCS services.

[Learn more about FCS.](#)

### Strategies to address health-related social needs (evolution of Initiative 1)

Under the renewal, HCA, Accountable Communities of Health, managed care organizations, and other partners would take on new projects to support health beyond medical care. This includes areas like housing, nutrition, transportation, and other basic needs. These areas would include health equity and community capacity funding, community-based care coordination, and payment for other unmet needs.

Tribes and Indian health care providers will also continue to work on improvements to the health care system and health outcomes under the renewal.

[Learn more about these strategies.](#)