

Pathway to Prosperity
Zoom Public Hearing (02/12/25 @ 10:30 AM CST)

Mac Golden: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the public hearing regarding the Pathway to Prosperity Amendment to Medicaid Section 1115 demonstration project Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me. I will be reading the notice in a moment and then we will open the floor for public comments. Please utilize the raise hand feature via Zoom if you would like to make a comment on the record. All official responses to public comments will appear on the DHS proposed rule website after the comment period concludes. I will now read the notice, which is very long so please bear with me.

Abbreviated Public Notice For Proposed Amendment to Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration Project, Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me (ARHOME)

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Medical Services (DMS) is providing public notice of its intent to submit to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) a written request to amend the Medicaid Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me (ARHOME) Demonstration Project (Waiver) and to hold public hearings to receive comments on the amendments to the Demonstration.

In accordance with 42 §CFR 431.408, this notice provides a summary of the waiver amendment request and serves to formally open the 30-day public comment period, which will begin February 2, 2025 and conclude on March 3, 2025.

Specifically, DHS seeks public comment on its Pathway to Prosperity amendment request to include the following enhancements to the current ARHOME demonstration:

- 1)** The proposed amendment will provide focused care coordination services from a Success Coaching resource to Medicaid beneficiaries who are not progressing toward improved health goals and economic independence. Pathway to Prosperity applies to all individuals ages 19-64 who are eligible through the new adult expansion group, who have income ranging from 0% FPL to 138% FPL, and who are enrolled in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP).
- 2)** DHS will utilize data matching to the extent possible to identify individuals who may benefit from extra support to reach their health and economic goals. If DHS confirms that an individual is not on track through direct contact with the individual, it will leverage resources through QHPs, state agencies such as Arkansas Workforce Centers, and Arkansas Career and Technical Education, as well as local community partners, to provide focused care coordination services to eligible individuals. Success Coaching will be delivered by entities that have experience of working with individuals who face the challenges of poverty and will include training to provide focused care coordination services. Focused care coordination services include the establishment and monitoring of a Personal Development Plan (PDP).
- 3)** Employment is vital to a person's long-term health as poverty is directly linked to poor health outcomes. If a person is not employed, or is at risk of long-term dependency, he or she must be engaged in qualifying advancement described in the PDP to be considered "on track." Advancement can come from a variety of activities including training, workforce development, apprenticeships, and internships. Learning includes formal education, vocational education, and

activities that enhance a person's skills such as mentoring programs or life skills development. Service in one's community may be demonstrated in a variety of ways, including caring for a dependent child, an elderly parent, or a person with a disability.

4) Individuals who decline to participate in Pathway to Prosperity workforce development for three months will have QHP benefits, and Medicaid eligibility suspended through the remainder of the calendar year.

5) To become "on track" and have QHP benefits restored, they will notify their Success Coaching entity of their intention to cooperate with their PDP. As Pathway to Prosperity does not make compliance with a condition of eligibility, individuals will not be required to complete a new Medicaid application unless they have passed their date for their annual redetermination of eligibility.

6) During the suspension period, DHS will not make monthly premium payments nor related payments to the QHP on behalf of the individual.

7) DHS assumes 50% of individuals assigned to Success Coaching will cooperate with DHS and be "on track" with no change in their QHP benefits; 25% of individuals will be "early movers" off Medicaid due to change in household income and move to other coverage; and 25% will fail to cooperate and have benefits suspended. However, DHS assumes 50% of those who were suspended will subsequently inform DHS of their willingness to cooperate and thereby have benefits restored.

The Pathway to Prosperity amendment has an anticipated start date of January 1, 2026.

The proposed amendment request and full public notice is available for public review on the DHS website at <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/rules/arhome/>. In addition, the draft documents are also available for hard copy review at the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Rules Promulgation, 2nd floor Donaghey Plaza South Building, 7th and Main Streets, P.O. Box 1437, Slot S295, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437.

During the public comment period, the public is invited to provide written comments to DHS via US postal service or electronic mail, as well as make comments verbally during the two public hearings. DHS will hold two public hearings on the following dates, times, and locations:

Public Hearing #1: General Public Forum (online only)

February 12, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. CST. Virtual participation via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83208465081> or Dial-In: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 832 0846 5081

Public Hearing #2: ARHOME Advisory Panel (in-person and online)

February 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CST at The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), Donaghey Plaza South Building, 700 Main Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203,

The hearing will be held in First Floor Conference Room A/B.

Also available for virtual participation via Zoom: or Zoom Dial-In: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 879 6494 3133

Interested persons should submit all comments to DHS on the proposed amendment on or before March 3, 2025. Comments can be submitted via email to ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov or by mail to Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Policy & Rules, 2nd Floor Donaghey Plaza South Building, 7th and Main Streets, P. O. Box 1437, Slot S295, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437. Please note that public comments submitted in response to this notice are considered public documents. A public comment, including the commenter's name and any personal information contained within the public comment, will be made publicly available.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and is operated and managed and delivers services without regard to religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, age, race, color, or national origin. If you need a copy of the draft amendment or public notice documents in a different format, such as large print or in hard copy, contact the Office of Policy & Rules at 501-320-6428. Signed Elizabeth Pitman, Director Division of Medical Services.

We will now open the floor for public comments. If you would like to make a public comment, please utilize the raise hand feature via Zoom you will be recognized to give a comment on the record.

Courtney do you see anyone raising their hand to make a comment?

Courtney Brown: Yes, Jaden Atkins.

Mac Golden: Okay, can you unmute Jaden Atkins and let them give their public comment?

Jaden Atkins: Yes, thank you. I am Jaden Atkins. I am an attorney at Legal Aid of Arkansas and my comment is really questions that we have after reviewing the waiver proposal. The first is what happens practically speaking when someone on ARHome consider to be off track by their success coach and doesn't qualify for existing feature service plans like PASS Medically frail, parent takeaway relative, and pregnant women. The waiver says that it will be suspended but aren't quite so on what that means practically. Will they be disenroll in the health insurance plan and just be essentially have their paperwork still with DHS to be put back on if they reach out but practically speaking they will lose their health insurance. Is that correct?

Mac Golden: We need to clarify we are not going to be answering questions today. But we will document all if your questions and will respond in writing once the public comment period concludes. So, if you want to go ahead and state your questions today, we will respond after March 3rd.

Jaden Atkins: That is my 1st group of questions and then the 2nd is how it develops that the estimate for who would be identified by the quote data matching screen at risk/assigned success coaching listed on page 27 of the waiver request and what are the parameters that were used to identify those people?

Mac Golden: Okay, thank you.

Thank you for your comments and questions if there anyone else who would like to make a public comment?

Courtney, do you see anyone else?

Courtney Brown: I do not. It takes a minute sometimes to get your hand raised.

Mac Golden: We will pause for 15 seconds to give people time to raise their hand. It looks like Jaden Atkins has another comment.

Jade Atkins: I just wanted to note for record here that there was not a passcode posted with the Zoom link for this meeting. I was able to get in because I emailed the office that posted the email address with questions, and I know that there is some people who I think that was able to call in but I'm not certain that those people have the ability to comment.

Mac Golden: We apologize for that we are not sure why a passcode was added. We did add it to the website right before the meeting because we ourselves were not able to get in. So, there will be another public hearing this Friday and it will be available by Zoom. So hopefully anyone who wasn't able to attend today will be able to attend Friday.

Is there anyone else who would like to make a public comment?

Gavin Lesnick: I will just say people on the phone who cannot raise their hand if they just want to unmute, we can try to sort it out that way.

Mac Golden: Okay, how do you want to go about that Gavin?

Gavin Lesnick: I would just say if anybody were on the phone and would like to make a comment please unmute and identify yourself and will recognize the first we hear continue.

Neil Sealy: My name is Neil Sealy, and I'm unmuted, can I make a comment?

Mac Golden: Yes sir, give your comment please.

Neil Sealy: Actually, I would like to know what time Friday 14th the comment section?

Mac Golden: It is 10:00 a.m. also. Okay...

Neil Sealy: And that is in the Main DHS building?

Mac Golden: Yes, it will be in person and on Zoom. The main DHS building on 7th and Main Street, on the first floor conference room A and B. It's a large conference room.

Neil Sealy: Okay, that's all. We will prepare comments and be there.

Mac Golden: Alright, thank you.

Is there anyone else who wants to raise hand or unmute themselves to give a comment today.

Courtney I'm not seeing anyone else.

Courtney Brown: I don't see anyone else unmuting or trying too either.

Mac Golden: We thank everyone for attending today and we apologies for the technical difficulties we have, and we have another public hearing this Friday. Thank you.