

Pathway to Prosperity
Zoom Public Hearing (02/19/25 @ 10:00 AM CST)

Mac Golden: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to a public hearing regarding the Pathway to Prosperity Proposed Amendment to Medicaid Section 1115 demonstration project Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me, also known as ARHome. I will be reading the notice and then I will open the floor for public comments. If you would like to make a public comment, please utilize the raise hand feature via zoom and you will be recognized to give a comment on the record.

Please remember this is not a question or answer session, but instead, an opportunity for the public to make comments. After the public comment period concludes on March the 3rd DHS will publish official responses to the comments on the DHS notice and proposed rule webpage. I will now read the notice.

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 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 making comments verbally during the three public hearings. DHS has already held public hearings on the following date, time and location.

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

It was held on February 12, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. Central via Zoom

Public Hearing #2: ARHOME Advisory Panel

February 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CST at The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), Main campus at 700 Main Street and via zoom and it was also a ARHome Advisory panel meeting,

Today is the **3rd General Public Hearing** held via Zoom, February 19th at 10:00 a.m.

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.

Please let the record reflect we have 19 attendees for today's public hearing. If any attendee would like to make a public comment, please utilize the raise hand feature at this time and you will be recognized on the record to give a comment. I will pause for a few seconds to give you time.

Barry to see anyone wishing to make a comment today?

Barry Rowland: No, sir.

Mac Golden: We thank everyone for attending this public hearing today. You still have time to submit your comment to orp@dhs.arkansas.gov and we will now go off the record.