

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



State Demonstrations Group

MAY 31 2017

Mary E. Dalton
State Medicaid Director
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
P.O Box 4210
Helena, MT 59604-4210

Dear Ms. Dalton:

Thank you for your request regarding the evaluation of the section 1115 demonstration entitled, "Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Program" (Project No. 11-W-00300/8) approved 11/02/2015. Montana asked on April 28, 2017 for CMS to allow the state to streamline its participation in the evaluation of the HELP demonstration, since the characteristics of the demonstration implicated two distinct evaluation efforts at the federal and state level, as described below.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Social and Scientific Systems (SSS) to conduct an evaluation of the HELP demonstration, including beneficiary surveys and comparisons to national survey data. We appreciate Montana's cooperation with this important evaluation, which assists CMS in understanding the impacts of the HELP demonstration and comparing it to similar demonstrations in other states. At the same time, Montana has also been working on its own state evaluation of the HELP demonstration, consistent with requirements at 42 CFR 431.424.

CMS is approving the state's request to participate in only the federal evaluation for the current approved demonstration period, and will continue working with Montana on the federal evaluation. Effective immediately, this approval supersedes the state's obligation to perform an independent evaluation per section XII paragraphs 1 through 7, 10, and 11 in the HELP demonstration special terms and conditions (STC). This approval is contingent upon the state continuing to cooperate in good faith with the federal evaluation. This approval is further contingent upon CMS continuing the federal evaluation. Should the state make significant changes to the HELP demonstration, CMS may require the state to complete an independent evaluation of the changes to the demonstration.

Montana will need to submit evaluation deliverables developed by SSS as outlined in the STCs at section XII, paragraphs 3 through 7. The state should also provide any additional information as it deems relevant (for example, via the monitoring report) to understanding the impact of the demonstration and in assessing the achievement of the goals and objectives of the demonstration.

My staff will continue to provide any support and technical assistance you may need. If you have any comments or questions, please contact your project officer, Ms. Valisha Andrus, at valisha.andrus@cms.hhs.gov.

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Judith A. Cash
Acting Director
State Demonstrations Group

cc: Richard Allen, Associate Regional Administrator, CMS Denver Regional Office