DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop: S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



November 4, 2026

Janet Mann
Secretary and Medicaid Director
Arkansas Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 1437
Slot S201
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437

Dear Secretary Mann:

Thank you for your August 5, 2026, letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding Arkansas's pending renewal request for the state's section 1115 demonstration, entitled Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me (ARHOME) (Project Number 11-W-00379/6). Today, CMS approved a six-month temporary extension of ARHOME. As stated in the temporary extension approval letter, this demonstration will now expire on June 30, 2027.

In Arkansas's August 5, 2026, letter to CMS, the state requested a two-year extension of the ARHOME demonstration.[1] Per the state's letter, two years would allow the state to design and implement a new delivery system for beneficiaries enrolled under the state plan as described at section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Social Security Act (referred to as the adult expansion population) who currently receive coverage through Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) available on the Health Insurance Marketplace. CMS shares your interest in supporting a seamless transition for beneficiaries served by the ARHOME demonstration and is prepared to partner with the state on any technical assistance or guidance needed related to delivery system shifts.

At this time, CMS is approving a six-month temporary extension while the state finalizes a plan to transition their delivery system. This temporary extension is intended to allow the state appropriate time to determine a pathway for transitioning the delivery system for the adult expansion population and avoid major disruptions to coverage. To be considered for additional temporary extensions beyond June 30, 2027, CMS expects Arkansas to submit written notification prior to this date outlining the state's planned delivery system transition timeline, with key milestones to support a smooth transition for beneficiaries, providers, and information systems. The state should also provide confirmation that any necessary authorization from the state's legislature has been secured. CMS will consider additional temporary extensions independently and this letter does not guarantee future approvals.

In a March 2025 letter to states,[2] CMS rescinded the November 2023 and December 2024 Center Information Bulletins (CIBs) related to coverage of certain services and supports to address

[1] https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/downloads/ar-arhome-ltr-frm-state-08052026.pdf
[2] https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/AID/cib03042025.pdf

"health-related social needs" while CMS evaluates policy options consistent with Medicaid and CHIP program requirements and objectives. On August 24, 2026, the state informed CMS that it has not implemented authorized housing supports under the Life360 HOMEs program. The state is expected to maintain this implementation status for the duration of the temporary extension and not begin new coverage of housing supports under the demonstration. Arkansas also agrees to come into compliance with any future guidance that may impact the Life360 HOMEs program.

Thank you again for your letter and for your partnership. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Sarah Aker, Acting Director, State Demonstrations Group, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, at Sarah.Aker@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Dan Brillman
Deputy Administrator, CMS
Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

cc: Lee Herko, State Lead, Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group