GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance

Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

October 20, 2026

Jamie John, Project Officer
State Demonstrations Group, Center for Medicaid and Chip Services
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
7500 Security Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Ms. John:

Thank you for your consideration and approval of the District's Whole Person Care Transformation Demonstration on September 23, 2026. This letter serves as the District of Columbia's official acceptance of the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) as set forth in CMS's approval letter on September 23, 2026, regarding the District's Whole Person Care Transformation Demonstration.

This demonstration will allow the District to increase access to high-quality, clinically appropriate services and improve care transitions for beneficiaries with a substance use disorder (SUD) and/or serious mental illness (SMI), while they are short-term residents in residential and inpatient treatment settings that qualify as an Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) and for individuals leaving incarceration and reentering a community setting. It expands the District's initial behavioral health focus and highlights the District's commitment to continue addressing ongoing structural challenges and gaps to provide a more seamless experience of care, improve outcomes, and promote healthier lives for District residents.

As the District moves forward with implementation, we also look forward to reengaging with CMS to determine a path forward for the remaining services proposed through the renewal request. We believe these services can further the District's goals to improve health outcomes for District residents in the Medicaid program.

Finally, the District wants to acknowledge CMS staff for their helpful support throughout the renewal process. We look forward to continuing to work with CMS to support a successful implementation of this demonstration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Allie Liss, Special Projects Officer, by email at allie.liss@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director