

The Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS), MO HealthNet Division (MHD) is submitting this document in order to comply with the monitoring requirements for the Targeted Benefits for Postpartum Women 1115 Waiver Demonstration.

As stated in a letter dated February 7, 2022 multiple factors contributed to a decision to pause the implementation of the demonstration. These factors include the passing of Medicaid expansion Missouri, resulting in a reduced population of eligible women and therefore a need to reevaluate associated costs.

The State is also awaiting a decision by the General Assembly that would allow coverage for low-income postpartum women to include full benefits for a year following the end of their pregnancy. At this time, the approval of this coverage is looking favorable. This would result in a substantially more expansive benefit package for all women who would be eligible for the Targeted Benefits for Postpartum Women Demonstration.

Because of the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, no Missourians have lost Medicaid coverage during the pause of implementation. All women who received MO HealthNet benefits for pregnancy during this time continue to be in receipt of the full benefit package. Missouri is beginning the redetermination process for all Medicaid recipients and has made the decision to do the potential population for Targeted Benefits for Postpartum Women last in order to allow continued coverage for the longest possible amount of time.

The system work required has been identified and ranked as a priority for completion in order to prepare for implementation of the demonstration. In the event the proposed coverage for low-income postpartum women does not move forward, MHD is in a good position to implement the Targeted Benefits for Postpartum Women 1115 Waiver Demonstration.