



July 30, 2024

Mr. Daniel Tsai
Deputy Administrator and Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop: C5-22-17
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Mr. Tsai:

The State of Texas submitted a request to extend the Healthy Texas Women (HTW) Section 1115 Demonstration on March 28, 2024. On April 4, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) deemed the demonstration extension application complete. Texas' current HTW 1115 demonstration expires on December 31, 2024. On May 10, 2024, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and CMS began holding bi-weekly calls to discuss the extension application. On June 11, 2024, you verbally indicated Texas' Healthy Texas Women waiver application is not approvable.

Texas is dedicated to continuing to offer critical women's health and family planning services at no cost to eligible women in Texas through the HTW 1115 Demonstration. The care provided by the demonstration helps women plan their families, whether they seek to achieve, postpone, or prevent pregnancy. Through the HTW demonstration, HHSC seeks to continue to enhance women's health care services by increasing access to and participation in the HTW program. As of November 2023, there were more than 400,000 Texas women enrolled in the HTW 1115 Demonstration served by almost 3,700 providers.

Mr. Daniel Tsai
July 30, 2024
Page 2

Per federal regulations (Title 42 *Code of Federal Regulations* §431.412(c)(4)) existing demonstration projects may be extended on a temporary basis. Therefore, HHSC is requesting a 12-month extension to ensure the state has adequate time to develop and implement an approach to continue providing services to these women.

Texas requests an extension of the HTW 1115 Demonstration from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. Texas' biennial state legislature convenes again January 14, 2025, through June 2, 2025. Decisions made during the legislative session will go into effect beginning on September 1, 2025. This extension request would allow time for the Texas Legislature to direct if or how HHSC proceeds with the HTW program.

For this 12-month extension, Texas requests to maintain Demonstration Year 5 federal matching funds. For the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, the federal matching funds estimate is \$73.8 million. Texas would also continue the delivery of these Medicaid services to eligible women through the fee-for-service delivery model statewide.

HHSC looks forward to a response from CMS by September 1, 2024. Receiving a timely response would allow Texas the time needed to determine how to proceed if CMS disapproves this temporary extension request. Given the impact on the women enrolled, providers, systems and processes, and the time it takes to make changes, Texas is asking for a timely response to this extension request.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this extension request. If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Mayes, Deputy State Medicaid Director, at Valerie.Mayes@hhs.texas.gov or 512-670-6994.

Sincerely,

Emily Zalkovsky
State Medicaid Director