



Group VIII 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application

Public Notice

Public Notice and Request for Comment

Pursuant to the provision of title 42 Section 431.408 of the Code of Federal Regulations, a public notice is required for a 1115 waiver.

Post Date December 17, 2024

End Date January 16, 2025

Purpose

The purpose of this posting is to receive public input on the Group VIII 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application prior to submission to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This application is part of an ongoing effort to improve Medicaid enrollee health and well-being through incentivizing work education and addiction recovery.

Summary

The complete Group VIII 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application is available [here](#). In accordance with 42 CFR §431.408, the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) is providing public notice of its intent to submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) an application for the Ohio Section 1115 Group VIII Demonstration Waiver. This application requests authority for Ohio to operate the Demonstration once approved by CMS without changes for a five-year period.

Demonstration Description and Goals

The Group VIII 1115 Demonstration Waiver application is submitted to comply with the legislative intent of HB 33 enacted by the Ohio General Assembly in 2023 to impose new eligibility criteria for the adult Medicaid expansion population under 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Social Security Act (Group VIII). These new criteria require that in order to qualify for enrollment in Group VIII, an individual must satisfy one of the following criteria:

- 1) Be at least fifty-five years of age.
- 2) Be employed.
- 3) Be enrolled in school or an occupational training program.
- 4) Be participating in an alcohol and drug addiction treatment program.
- 5) Have intensive physical health care needs or serious mental illness.

Specific goals of this 1115 Demonstration waiver include:

- Promoting economic stability and financial independence.
- Improving health outcomes by encouraging individuals to be engaged with their health and healthcare.

Eligibility

Only individuals in receipt of Medicaid in the Group VIII category will be appraised to determine if they also need to meet the requirement to maintain their Medicaid eligibility. Group VIII includes the adult Medicaid expansion population.

Eligibility Group Name	Social Security Act and CFR Citations	Income Level
Group VIII	Social Security Act section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) 42 CFR 435.119	0-133% FPL plus 5% disregard

As part of the eligibility review process either at application or at renewal, individuals will be evaluated to determine whether they also meet the eligibility restriction, or whether they meet an exemption, to meet or maintain their Medicaid eligibility.

If basic eligibility criteria are not met a notice of denial or termination will be issued. Individuals will have appeal rights, including the right to appeal the State’s decision that the individual does not meet the eligibility criteria for Group VIII.

Enrollment and Fiscal Projections

CMS requires that all 1115 Demonstration waiver applications demonstrate budget neutrality. This application presents information regarding projected expenditures and enrollment.

These estimates are highly dependent upon assumptions utilized in the analysis including the assumed approval and implementation dates.

The below table shows projected Group VIII enrollment with the waiver in place.

Demonstration Year	Projected Group VIII Avg Monthly Enrollment
DY 1	707,758
DY 2	711,297
DY 3	714,854
DY 4	718,428
DY 5	722,020

The table below contains a summary of the net change in member months and expenditures for DY 00 (CY 2025) through DY 05 (CY 2030) when comparing the without-waiver (WOW) and with-waiver (WW) scenarios.

TABLE 4 – 1115 BUDGET NEUTRALITY PROJECTIONS BY MEG, COMPARISON						
MEG	DY 00	DY 01	DY 02	DY 03	DY 04	DY 05
Managed Care						

Member Months	(710,821)	(714,375)	(717,947)	(721,537)	(725,144)	(728,770)
PMPM Cost	\$ 49.75	\$ 52.23	\$ 54.84	\$ 57.59	\$ 60.47	\$ 63.49
Expenditures	\$ (288,266,684)	\$ (304,228,231)	\$ (321,051,586)	\$ (338,720,873)	\$ (357,431,446)	\$ (377,209,599)
FFS						
Member Months	(27,404)	(27,541)	(27,678)	(27,817)	(27,956)	(28,096)
PMPM Cost	\$ 69.56	\$ 73.03	\$ 76.69	\$ 80.53	\$ 84.56	\$ 88.78
Expenditures	\$ (8,197,773)	\$ (8,652,203)	\$ (9,126,877)	\$ (9,629,019)	\$ (10,159,635)	\$ (10,724,172)
Total Expenditures	\$ (296,464,457)	\$ (312,880,434)	\$ (330,178,463)	\$ (348,349,893)	\$ (367,591,081)	\$ (387,933,771)

The State believes that of the 769,585 Group VIII enrollees in CY 2026, no more than 61,826 individuals will be considered not exempt and not currently working. Eligibility reviews will be conducted in accordance with the standard eligibility renewal dates. While Ohio will work with all individuals who are not otherwise deemed to be exempt or already meeting the Requirement to ensure that they have the tools and supports they need to comply, ODM is estimating that 61,826 enrollees will lose their Medicaid eligibility.

Hypotheses and Evaluation

The following hypotheses will be studied under the Demonstration waiver.

Methodology	Data Sources and Metrics
Hypothesis 1: Group VIII population will have improved health outcomes because of employment, education, and/or engagement in their healthcare activities	
Track and compare health service utilization between pre- and post-levels for members of the 1115 demonstration waiver	Claims data: Primary Care Encounters
Track and compare chronic disease management compliance rates for pre- and post-1115 demonstration waiver members	Claims data: Chronic disease management code
Track and compare employed status of members in educational or job training programs	Wage data from OhioBenefits; Third-party data
Track and compare status of members in SUD programs	Claims and encounter data: SUD treatment
Hypothesis 2: Group VIII population will have broader sustained employment over time	
Compare the rate of sustained employment of Group VIII individuals prior to the 1115 demonstration waiver to the rate of sustained employment after implementation	Group VIII Survey
Track members' employment rates	Group VIII Survey

Benefits and Cost Sharing Requirements

The 1115 Demonstration waiver application does not propose to change Ohio's Alternative Benefit Plan benefits (that Group VIII individuals receive) or impose new cost-sharing requirements. Enrollees will continue to receive the same benefits currently provided in Ohio's Alternative Benefit Plan.

Waiver and Expenditure Authority

ODM is requesting the following waiver and expenditure authorities:

1. **Comparability of Eligibility Requirements:** Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) and 1902(a)(17) to the extent necessary to enable Ohio to require work, training, and/or engagement as a condition to qualify for and maintain eligibility for the eligibility category defined in 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII).
2. **Provision of Medical Assistance** Section 1902(a)(8) to the extent necessary to suspend and terminate eligibility for individuals who fail to meet the qualifying activities requirement.
3. **Expenditure authority** to employ a third-party data vendor to verify the basic eligibility requirements using external data sources.
4. **Renewal on basis of information available** to the agency 42 CFR 435.916. To the extent necessary to verify individuals enrolled in Group VIII continue to meet one of the eligibility requirements.

The Group VIII Demonstration Waiver application may be viewed [here](#). A paper copy of the application may be requested using the email address or postal address stated below.

Comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. ET on January 16, 2025, using one of the following options:

Public Hearings

ODM will host two hearings, one in Columbus and one in Dayton, on the proposed Group VIII 1115 Demonstration Waiver. Written testimony, in addition to oral testimony, is encouraged.

1/3/2025 at 11 AM – 3 PM

- In Person: Englewood Government Center
333 W. National Road
Englewood, OH 45322
- Virtual: Virtual Access Information
Online:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6421576060236215901>
Phone: Dial IN 562-247-8422 PIN: 604-320-336

1/9/2025 at 11 AM – 3 PM

- In Person: Verne Riffe Center
77 S. High Street, B1 Hearing Room
Columbus, Ohio 43215
- Virtual: Virtual Access Information
Online: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8635548275879471200>
Phone: Dial IN 562-247-8422 PIN: 884-158-423

Public Comment

- By email: GroupVIII@medicaid.ohio.gov
- By mail: Group VIII 1115 Waiver, Bureau of Health Plan Policy, Ohio Department of Medicaid, 50 W. Town St, 5th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215
- By courier or in person submission to: Group VIII 1115 Waiver, Bureau of Health Plan Policy, Ohio Department of Medicaid, 50 W. Town St, 5th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215

All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on January 16, 2025.

ODM is committed to providing access and inclusion and reasonable accommodation in its services, activities, programs, and employment opportunities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and other applicable laws. To request an interpreter, written information in a language other than English or in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats), or a reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact ODM's Civil Rights/ADA Coordinator at 614- 995-9981/TTY 711, Fax 1-614-644-1434, or Email:

ODM_EEO_EmployeeRelations@medicaid.ohio.gov.

If you believe ODM has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way, you can file a grievance with ODM's Civil Rights Coordinator and/or file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. Further information on these processes and ODM's compliance with civil rights and other applicable laws can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).