






Idaho Medicaid Waivers Explained



Winter/Spring 2020

As a result of legislation passed by the 2019 Idaho Legislature, the state was required to submit several waiver applications to the federal government related to Medicaid expansion and Medicaid more generally. The provisions will only be implemented if they receive federal approval.

Since the 2019 session every mandatory waiver listed below has been submitted, and their status is updated below. The following table outlines the waivers that Idaho submitted, details the intended impacts of each waiver and the Close the Gap stance on each proposal.

Waivers		
Provision	Proposal	Status
Exchange/Medicaid Opt-In 1332 Waiver <i>CTG Neutral</i> 	Idahoans within 100-138% FPL would be given the choice of enrolling in Medicaid OR using federal tax credits to enroll in marketplace coverage.	Waiver application returned to the state by federal government as “incomplete” on August 29, 2019.
Work-reporting requirement 1115 Waiver <i>Opposes</i> 	Idahoans who don’t qualify for an exemption would have to demonstrate they work, volunteer, and/or are in school for 20 hours a week to receive Medicaid. Results in loss of coverage if unable to prove exemption or compliance.	State and federal comment periods held in fall and winter of 2019. CMS is reviewing the application and is expected to make an approval decision by early to mid-2020.
Family Planning 1115 Waiver <i>Opposes</i> 	To receive family planning services, individuals would need a referral to see someone other than their primary doctor.	State and federal comment periods held in fall and winter of 2019. CMS is reviewing the application and may make a decision during 2020.
IMD 1115 Waiver <i>Supports</i> 	Institutions of “mental disease” could use federal Medicaid dollars to cover services for short-term mental health care.	State comment period held during the winter of 2019. Federal comment is open until February 8.
Co-pay back up 1115 and 1916-F Waiver <i>Opposes</i> 	Subject to co-pay instead of losing coverage if unable to meet work-reporting requirement as above.	State will apply for this waiver if the work-reporting requirement waiver is rejected.

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Timeline for Waiver Applications

1115 Waiver Timeline

Idaho has completed its portion of each 1115 waiver, they now sit with CMS for evaluation and decision. 1115 waiver application determinations typically take at least one year; The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has indicated that even if approved, work reporting requirements will need an additional six months of preparation before being implemented, giving that waiver a potentially even longer timeframe. If approved the new rules will likely be challenged in court, delaying their potential implementation even further. Based on these factors and details, below is a timeline illustrating the steps of the average 1115 waiver.

