

Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries, Inc. (ACAM)
Association for Family and Community Integrity, Inc.
Behavioral Health Alliance of Texas
Bering Omega Community Services
Care for Elders
Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
CHILDREN AT RISK
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris Co., Inc.
Coalition of Behavioral Health Services
Collaborative for Children
Communities In Schools
Community Family Centers
Community Health Choice, Inc.
Covenant House of Texas
DePelchin Children's Center
Depression & BiPolar Support Alliance Greater Houston (DBSA)
Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc.
Family Services of Greater Houston
Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, Inc.
Good Neighbor Healthcare Center
Greater Houston Healthconnect
Harris County Healthcare Alliance
Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston
Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children
Houston Area Community Services
Houston Area Women's Center
Houston Food Bank
Houston Methodist Hospital
IntraCare Behavioral Health
Jewish Family Service
League of Women Voters Houston
Legacy Community Health, Services Inc.
Lesbian Health Initiative
March of Dimes
Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
Mental Health America of Greater Houston
NAMI Greater Houston
National Association of Social Workers-Houston
Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
New Hope Housing, Inc.
Northwest Assistance Ministries
Phoenix Houses of Texas, Inc.
Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
Santa Maria Hostel, Inc.
SEARCH Homeless Services
Spaulding for Children
Spring Branch Community Health Center
Springfield College School of Human Services
St. Joseph House
Texas Children's Hospital
Texas Health Institute
Texas Hunger Initiative
The Arc of Greater Houston
The Council on Alcohol & Drugs Houston
The Immunization Partnership
The Living Bank
The Network of Behavioral Health Providers
The Rose
The Walk for Mental Health Awareness-Houston
The Women's Home
United Way of Greater Houston
Vita-Living, Inc.
Wesley Community Center
Worklife Institute
YMCA of Greater Houston



Healthcare

Texas Medicaid 1115 Transformation and Quality Improvement Waiver

Position Statement Approved by One Voice Texas: December 10, 2014

Issue/Concern:

Medicaid waivers are negotiated between the federal government (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-CMS) and the state of Texas (Health and Human Services Commission-HHSC) to release states from certain federal requirements so that they can implement Medicaid in new or different ways. Medicaid Section 1115 Waivers allow states to have program flexibility to test new or existing approaches to finance and deliver Medicaid.

The Texas Medicaid 1115 Quality Transformation Waiver was negotiated to cover FY 2011-2016 with three components:

- 1) the Uncompensated Care (UC) pool to reimburse hospitals for care provided to the uninsured;
- 2) the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, designed to fund new models of care in local communities that lead to overall cost reduction; and
- 3) expansion of Medicaid managed care to the entire state through the Texas STAR and STAR+PLUS programs.

DSRIP projects are coordinated throughout Texas under Regional Healthcare Partnerships (RHP) and are focused on infrastructure development or program innovation and design. The Region 2 RHP is a 16-county area anchored by UTMB in Galveston where they operate 84 projects, 37 of which are focused on behavioral health. Projects are designed to address community needs and achieve the Triple Aim goals of improving the patient experience, improving the health of populations, and reducing per capita cost of care. Region 2 projects are valued at more than \$400 million.

The Southeast Texas RHP, also referred to as Region 3, covers 9 counties in the Houston/Harris County area. There are currently 181 projects. Fifty-six of these projects address behavioral health needs while the other 125 are focused on physical health issues such as primary care, chronic care, navigation, specialty care, emergency care, and community health needs. Outcomes are being monitored, and Region 3 is on track to serve 1.4 million individuals by the end of the project demonstration. Region 3 Projects are valued at \$2.6 billion, including \$1.6 billion in federal funds.

The 1115 waivers were approved for five years initially, and can either be extended in three-year increments or renewed for another five years. A request to extend or renew the Waiver must be declared by HHSC to CMS by September 30, 2015. In a 3-year extension, the federal government could include changes to the existing Waiver. A 5-year renewal would involve significant changes to the existing Waiver, similar to drafting a new Waiver.

Specific Policy Recommendations:

Support policies that will preserve Texas Medicaid 1115 Transformation and Quality Improvement Waiver Projects.

What Can Be Accomplished?

The 1115 Waiver benefits local communities. The Waiver created opportunities among healthcare providers to build community capacity and improve health outcomes through a holistic continuum of care for local patients. The Waiver is responsible for facilitating innovative, collaborative health projects and services and gives hospitals and providers local control in meeting the healthcare needs of their communities. These types of effective, quality programs and projects must be recognized for the value that they bring to local communities, both in terms of cost efficiency and meeting the healthcare needs of uninsured populations.

How Will This Impact State Funding?

The current 1115 Texas Waiver will provide \$17.6 billion in funding to hospitals and providers for uncompensated care, and \$11.4 billion to fund local DSRIP projects over the life of the 5-year negotiation. Extending or renewing the waiver will continue the flow of federal dollars into Texas saving the state and local communities billions of dollars in effective healthcare delivered to low-income and uninsured Texans.

Supporting Facts/Research Resources:

- ✓ <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/Waivers.html>
- ✓ <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/1115-Waiver-Overview.shtml>
- ✓ Regional Healthcare Partnership for Plan for RHP 2 accessed online December 9, 2014, at <http://blogs.utmb.edu/1115/region2plan/>
- ✓ Southeast Texas Regional Healthcare Partnership, Region 3, accessed online December 9, 2014, at <http://www.setexasrhp.com/go/doc/6182/2056886/>

Contact:

Laurie Glaze, LMSW
Executive Director
One Voice Texas
(713) 333-2232 / lglaze@onevoicetexas.org

Texas One Voice: A Collaborative for Health and Human Services – Advocates for Comprehensive High Quality Health and Human Services.

5120 WOODWAY DRIVE, SUITE 6000

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77056

Office: 713.333.2232 or 713.333.2204

Fax: 713.333.2220

www.onevoicetexas.org