

# The MassHealth Demonstration Extension 2022–2027:

## Building on Success, Focusing on Equity

JUNE 2023

MassHealth mostly operates under a “demonstration waiver” granted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which allows MassHealth to offer robust and innovative coverage beyond the basic federal requirements. This “demonstration waiver” must be renewed periodically, and the most recent extension will allow Massachusetts to:

1.

### IMPROVE DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORMS AND ENHANCE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

- Continue two of the three initial **Accountable Care Organization (ACO) models**
- Strengthen the **Community Partners (CP) Program**, which offers added supports to ACO members with complex needs
  - Require ACOs and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to pay CPs directly
  - Expand Long-Term Services and Supports CP responsibilities to include overall care coordination
- Enhance the **Flexible Services Program**, which provides certain ACO members with services to address their housing and nutrition needs

2.

### UPDATE ELIGIBILITY POLICIES

- Streamline eligibility for CommonHealth—a program for **people with disabilities** who earn too much for the standard MassHealth program
- Restore “retroactive eligibility” (coverage extending back to three months prior to the application date) for **pregnant people and children**
- Maintain MassHealth eligibility continuously for 24 months for **individuals experiencing homelessness**
- Maintain MassHealth eligibility continuously for one year following **release from incarceration**

3.

### ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY

- Expand MassHealth’s **Community Support Program (CSP)**, which delivers case management services, including help obtaining public benefits, housing, and health care
- Introduce **financial incentives for hospitals** to collect social risk factor data, identify inequities, and reduce inequities

4.

### INVEST IN PRIMARY CARE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Introduce a **new payment model for ACO-affiliated primary care practices** to support behavioral health integration and other enhanced care delivery expectations
- Continue **loan repayment programs** to incentivize primary care and behavioral health providers to remain in the field and serve MassHealth members

5.

### SUSTAIN THE SAFETY NET CARE POOL

- Maintain the structure of the Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP), which **supports safety net providers**

For more information, visit <https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/publication/masshealth-demonstration-extension-2022-2027-building-success-focusing-equity>.