

# Reform 2020 Section 1115 Waiver: Annual Public Forum

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# Reform 2020: The 1115 Waiver

## Federal support for the ***Alternative Care (AC) Program***

- Federal financial participation (FFP) on AC program expenditures
- Initially approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in October 2013
- Renewed through January 2025

# Section 1115 Waivers

Section 1115 of the Social Security Act allows states to waive certain requirements under Medicaid or use Medicaid funds in ways that are not otherwise allowed under federal rules

- Demonstrate new policy or delivery approaches that promote the objectives of the Medicaid program
- Must be budget neutral to the federal government over course of waiver
- State must conduct an evaluation and report on demonstration outcomes

# Section 1115 Waivers, cont.

- Independent evaluation designed and conducted by the University of Minnesota and Purdue University
- The design will be updated and submitted to CMS for the renewal

# Alternative Care Evaluation

- Compare the AC population before and after November 1, 2013 when the waiver was implemented, and compare the AC population to the Elderly Waiver (EW) population before and after November 1, 2013.
- Evaluation looks at:
  - Level of need, demographic characteristics, and service use patterns for AC and EW over time
  - Use of and access to consumer-directed options
  - Length of time in the community compared to nursing facility (NF) use
  - Use of Essential Community Supports, a program designed to serve seniors with emerging needs for community support

# AC Evaluation, continued

- Outcomes will be examined for AC participants alone, and in comparison to EW participants
- DHS expects the evaluation to show that AC participants have equal or better outcomes compared to the pre-demonstration AC program
- Evaluation provides DHS an opportunity to examine outcomes for both AC and EW populations with a analytic, research-based approach.
- Understanding better how these programs support older Minnesotans will help DHS to respond to expected increase in demand for services as the population of people age 65 and older grows

# Future Activities

- Annual reports to CMS on the progress made in implementation of the evaluation plan.
- Point in time (snapshots) will add more statistical analysis
- Follow groups of people or cohorts over time to look at outcomes related to NF admission, mortality, and length of time in the community.
- Final report at the end of the waiver approved period.

# Opportunity for Public Comment