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## Grant extension support

1 message

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Amber A. Villanti

Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 8:38 PM

Good Afternoon Oral Health Champions,

I am contacting you to ask for assistance in fighting our cause to convince DHCS (Department of Health Care Services) to include Domain 4 in the extension of the DTI (Dental Transformation Initiative) grant. DHCS is proposing approval for a one-year extension for all of the Medi-Cal 1115 waiver, except Domain 4. The County of San Luis Oral Health Program is asking for your support. This grant has been instrumental in building the foundation for our counties oral health initiative and continued care for our most vulnerable populations.

Domain 4 pilot projects for San Luis Obispo include VDH- Virtual Dental Home, expansion of dental workforce, and linking patients with a dental home through education, referrals and case management. We are beginning to see results from these pilot projects that meet the goals of the Dental Transformation Initiative. However, due to the delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and a one year delay in receiving authorization from DHCS, these pilot programs have not had the time needed to implement sustainability plans for the services being provided.

Through our efforts, we have been able to provide preventive and restorative care to 880 children as well as referred 453 patients, linking them to a dental home. In addition, we have educated over 4,800 adults and children through health fairs, WIC sites, food bank distribution, school education sessions, and low-income housing outreach.

San Luis Obispo County is the only recipient of the DTI that has chosen to collaborate with private dentists in our community instead of a federally qualified health center. We have taken a grass roots approach through relationship building and expansion of the dental workforce. Our program has facilitated classes and given 46 scholarships for staff working in Medi-Cal offices to obtain their RDA license and provided scholarships for 3 hygienists to obtain RDHAP licensure. By providing opportunities to have higher trained staff, Medi-Cal offices can expand the number of patients they see.

San Luis Obispo County has remote areas that are more than one hour from the closest dentist. Many children that live in these areas do not have the resources to get the dental care they need. Through our Virtual Dental Home project (VDH) we have established relationships with 17 schools in 5 different districts. At these school sites, a hygienist provides preventive dental services that include fluoride, teeth cleaning, X-rays, and sealants on school campus. The hygienist sends a dentist offsite digital images and notes to perform an exam through telehealth. We have three local subcontractors who are committed to continuing these services at schools once they become sustainable. A sustainable foundation must be built for our subcontractors to make sure children with access to care issues get the care they need.

As COVID-19 continues to put the health of our state in crisis, we must ensure that we do not lose the progress that has been made under the DTI, including Domain 4. Under Domain 4, the Local Dental Pilot Projects (LDPPs) are providing much needed services within our community, including oral health education, dental care coordination, increasing the provider network, establishing dental homes in community-based settings, and providing resources for Medi-Cal-enrolled children and their families. Many of these children—who are overwhelmingly children of color and low-income children—are now in crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disparate impact on low-income families.

During this crisis, the LDPPs have served as trusted resources and a help to those families most in need. While in-person services have been limited during the public health emergency, the LDPPs have worked to find ways to support the overall health and wellbeing of children and families. However, the pilot programs—as well as the state's third party evaluator—have not had the opportunity to fully test the innovative, alternative models for providing preventive oral health care to children enrolled in Medi-Cal.

Please see the information listed below on how you can provide public comment and help us win this battle for our most vulnerable population in San Luis Obispo County and feel free to forward this email to anyone who will join our cause. Extending Domain 4 for one year is necessary to see the demonstration to completion, and to truly learn of its impact.

1. The proposal will be released for public comment on July 22.
2. There are two public comment opportunities, Aug 7, Aug 10. Please click on link for public comment opportunities <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/MC-2020-Extension-Public-Notice.pdf>
3. You can email comments to [1115waiver@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:1115waiver@dhcs.ca.gov). Comments are due Aug 21.

Thank you,

**Amber Villanti, ASO**

County of San Luis Obispo Health Agency | Public Health

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES**  
**NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST**  
**RELEASE DATE: July 22, 2020**

**PROPOSED 12-MONTH EXTENSION REQUEST TO THE MEDI-CAL 2020  
SECTION 1115 WAIVER**

This notice provides information of public interest regarding a proposed 12-month extension request to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for the Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115 waiver by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The Medi-Cal 2020 waiver was approved by CMS on December 30, 2015 and is effective through December 31, 2020.

Following the end of the waiver period, DHCS intended to implement [California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal](#) (CalAIM), a multi-year initiative to implement overarching policy changes across all Medi-Cal delivery systems. However, COVID-19 has greatly impacted all aspects of California's health care delivery system, and key partners and stakeholders including managed care plans, providers, and counties requested a delay in implementing CalAIM to focus on addressing the pandemic.

While the goals and objectives of CalAIM continue to be a high priority, DHCS officially announced the delay of CalAIM in May 2020. Because of the CalAIM delay, DHCS will submit a 12-month Section 1115 waiver extension request to CMS to ensure continuation of the important programs authorized through Medi-Cal 2020 as a bridge to their eventual transitions under CalAIM.

Following are the elements of the Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115 waiver demonstration that are proposed to continue under the 12-month extension:

- Medi-Cal Managed Care
- Whole Person Care Pilots
- Global Payment Program
- Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System
- Low-Income Pregnant Women
- Out of State Former Foster Care Youth
- Community-Based Adult Services
- Coordinated Care Initiative
- Dental Transformation Initiative
- Tribal Uncompensated Care
- Rady's California Children's Services Pilot
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly as an Alternative Delivery System in Select County Organized Health Systems

It is important to note that the Public Hospital Re-Design and Incentives in Medi-Cal (PRIME) program is not included in this extension request. PRIME will be

transitioning to the Medi-Cal Quality Incentive Program (QIP) over the next 12 months.

This proposal is intended to extend the current structure and objectives of the programs listed above with no changes to eligibility, benefits or cost sharing for beneficiaries. DHCS does not anticipate a significant increase or decrease in enrollment due to the waiver extension. The evaluation of the demonstration would be extended for an additional 12 months, with no changes. DHCS expects that this 12-month extension will not increase federal or state expenditures and may result in a net decrease in managed care expenditures due to intended changes to the capitated benefits schedule for Medi-Cal managed care.

DHCS requests input from health plans, counties, providers, beneficiaries, and other interested stakeholders concerning the proposed Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request, which is attached and posted on the [DHCS website](#).

The effective term of the proposed Medi-Cal 2020 extension is January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. All proposed extension requests are subject to approval by CMS.

## **PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

The proposed Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request is enclosed in this notice for public comment. DHCS requests input from health plans, counties, providers, beneficiaries, and other interested stakeholders concerning the proposed extension request.

DHCS will host the following public hearings to solicit stakeholder comments. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and to maximize opportunities for participation, all public hearings will be held via webinar.

- Wednesday, July 29, 2020 – DHCS Tribal and Designees of Indian Health Programs
  - 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
  - For more information visit the [Indian Health Program webpage](#)
- Friday, August 7, 2020 – First Public Hearing
  - 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - Register [here](#)
- Monday, August 10, 2020 – Second Public Hearing
  - 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
  - Register [here](#)

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of the proposed Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request will be published at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Medi-Cal-2020-Extension.aspx>

You may request a copy of the proposed Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request or a copy of submitted public comments related to the Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request by requesting it in writing to the mailing or email addresses listed below. Please indicate "Medi-Cal 2020 12-Month Extension Request" in the subject line or message.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services  
Director's Office  
Attn: Oleg Istratiy & Angeli Lee  
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000  
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to [1115waiver@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:1115waiver@dhcs.ca.gov). Please indicate "Medi-Cal 2020 12-Month Extension Request" in the subject line or message.

To be assured consideration prior to submission of the Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request to CMS, comments must be received no later than **August 21, 2020**. Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after August 21, 2020, but DHCS may not be able to consider those comments prior to the initial submission of the Medi-Cal 2020 12-month extension request to CMS.

HEALTH COMMISSION LETTERHEAD

Date

California Department of Healthcare Services  
Local Dental Pilot Project

To Whom it May Concern:

The San Luis Obispo County Health Commission is writing this letter of support for the Local Dental Pilot Project Application (LDPP) being submitted by the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department.

The goal of the LDPP is to improve the overall dental health of children 0-20, to help them achieve better health outcomes. The County will be working on multiple interventions in this proposal including increasing the number of dentists who will see DentiCal eligible children in their practices through incentive payments; helping our local Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) contract with private dentists; increasing the number of Registered Dental Assistants available countywide; working with low-income housing developments, doing screening and assessment of high risk children, and helping them access treatment through case management assistance; and a Virtual Dental Home (VDH) pilot project in a remote corner of the County.

The Health Commission is an advisory body to the Public Health Department, as well as the County Board of Supervisors. We commit to continuing to serve on the Oral Health Coalition, and we will volunteer to serve on the LDPP oversight sub-committee.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,