



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: 11-W-00326/6 Healthy Texas Women Demonstration

Dear Secretary Becerra:

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) submits the attached application to extend the Healthy Texas Women (HTW 11-W-00326/6) demonstration under section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act.

The Healthy Texas Women demonstration is dedicated to offering women's health and family planning services at no cost to eligible women in Texas. The care provided by the demonstration will continue to help women plan their families, whether they seek to achieve, postpone, or prevent pregnancy.

Through the HTW demonstration, HHSC seeks to continue to enhance women's health care services by increasing access to and participation in the HTW program. HTW demonstration services are available statewide to eligible women.

The goals and objectives of the HTW Demonstration are to:

- Increase access to women's health and family planning services to avert unintended pregnancies, positively affect the outcome of future pregnancies, and positively impact the health and well-being of women and their families.
- Increase access to preventive health care, including screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol; to positively impact maternal health; and reduce maternal mortality.
- Increase access to women's breast and cervical cancer services to promote early cancer detection and referral to treatment in existing state programs.

- Implement the state policy to favor childbirth and family planning services that do not include elective abortions or the promotion of elective abortions within the continuum of care or services and to avoid the direct or indirect use of state funds to promote or support elective abortions.
- Reduce the overall cost of publicly funded health care (including federally funded health care) by providing low-income Texans access to safe, effective services across a woman's lifecycle.
- Increase the use of value-based payment arrangements among managed care organizations (MCOs) and their provider networks.

This extension request will allow HHSC additional flexibility to use a managed care delivery model and increase the use of value-based payment arrangements among MCOs and their provider networks.

Additionally, the extension request will reflect an increase to the state's comparable income limit to convert the existing state income threshold standards from 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 204.2% of the FPL, the equivalent of the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) standard.

The proposed effective date for the extension is January 1, 2025, for a five-year period ending December 31, 2029.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this demonstration extension request. If you have any questions, please contact Cecile Erwin Young, the HHSC Executive Commissioner, at (512) 424-6502 or Cecile.Young@hhs.texas.gov. Thank you for your consideration and prompt action to approve this extension.

Sincerely,



Greg Abbott
Governor

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