

Heritage Health Adult

Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver FAQ

On October 20, 2020, the federal government approved Nebraska’s section 1115 demonstration waiver for Heritage Health Adult (HHA). This waiver will allow beneficiaries to qualify for dental services, vision services, and over-the-counter medications by choosing to engage in wellness, personal responsibility, and community engagement activities.

Nebraska’s HHA demonstration program will begin on April 1, 2021. For additional information on the program, see the link below:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Heritage-Health-Adult-Demonstration.aspx>

Below are frequently asked questions about Nebraska’s 1115 HHA waiver and program.

What is an 1115 Waiver?	An 1115 waiver is a program approved by the federal government that allows states to waive some federal Medicaid rules to demonstrate new and innovative ways to administer their Medicaid program. These innovations will give Nebraskans new opportunities to improve their health.
What is included in Nebraska’s 1115 waiver?	This waiver will allow beneficiaries to qualify for dental services, vision services, and over-the-counter medications by choosing to engage in wellness, personal responsibility, and community engagement activities. Most people covered under HHA will participate in this new program.
When will the program begin?	The program will begin on April 1, 2021. The wellness and personal responsibility activities will be included for the first year. Community engagement activities will be added to the program in 2022.
Why did Nebraska create this program?	Nebraska is creating this program to encourage those with HHA coverage to participate actively in their health care and to allow providers to identify health needs early. This program is expected to lead to better health outcomes and allow DHHS to use taxpayer funds efficiently to serve more Nebraskans in need.

Who will participate in the program?	Most people with HHA coverage will participate and will be able to qualify for dental, vision, and over-the-counter medication benefits. People covered through HHA who are pregnant, ages 19-20, or Medically Frail will not participate in the program.
Why should participants complete the wellness, personal responsibility, and community engagement activities?	Completing these activities will give participants additional opportunities to improve their health. By participating, they will also qualify for dental, vision, and over-the-counter medication benefits. This program will show that these additional activities lead to better health outcomes and allow DHHS to use taxpayer funds efficiently to serve more Nebraskans in need.
What if people in the program do not complete these activities?	Participants keep their Medicaid eligibility whether they choose to complete these activities or not. Participants who opt not to complete these activities will not qualify for dental, vision, and over-the-counter medication benefits.
What are wellness activities?	Wellness activities include having an annual health visit with a health care provider and completing a health risk screening through a health plan.
What are personal responsibility activities?	Personal responsibility activities include attending appointments with a health care provider, keeping any employer-sponsored health insurance, and reporting important life changes in a timely manner.
What are community engagement activities?	Community engagement activities include working, volunteering for a public charity, attending a post-secondary school or apprenticeship, or completing job-seeking activities for at least 80 hours per month. Community engagement activities will be added to the program in 2022.