



Sustainable Coverage Section 1115 Demonstration

Frequently Asked Questions

February 23, 2026

The Nebraska Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care (MLTC) is submitting a Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver application to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) seeking a waiver of retroactive eligibility. The proposed Demonstration seeks to align coverage more closely with the time of application in order to support timely enrollment, promote continuity of coverage, and strengthen the state's ability to focus resources on the most vulnerable Nebraskans who rely on Medicaid for essential care.

Q: What is a Section 1115 Waiver?

A: A Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver allows the state (with approval of the federal Department of Health and Human Services) to waive certain federal Medicaid rules to test innovative ways to administer its Medicaid program.

Q: What is retroactive eligibility?

A: Current federal law provides Medicaid coverage for the three months prior to the month the beneficiary applied for Medicaid, if the individual would have been eligible during that time period. For example, an individual that applies in April 2026 can request eligibility for January, February, and March 2026. Under federal law, these time periods will change as of 2027 - an individual in the Medicaid Expansion population will receive one month of retroactive eligibility and all other individuals will receive two months of retroactive eligibility.

Nebraska is continuing to maintain retroactive coverage to the first day of the month of application, to ensure individuals will not face gaps in coverage due to potential delays in application processing.

Q: Why is Nebraska implementing these requirements?

A: The demonstration's goals and objectives are to encourage timely enrollment, increase continuity of care, and promote program sustainability. Nebraska seeks to understand how limiting retroactive eligibility to the month of application supports a more timely and continuous connection to Medicaid coverage while encouraging beneficiaries to engage with the program as soon as they become eligible. By aligning enrollment more closely with current health needs, the demonstration aims to reduce

avoidable program costs through proactive healthcare management and earlier access to appropriate services. Nebraska will assess whether this approach promotes more efficient use of healthcare resources and contributes to long-term program sustainability by strengthening predictable eligibility pathways and supporting stable coverage for individuals who rely on Medicaid. Through these objectives, the demonstration seeks to generate evidence on how a shorter retroactive period may improve program performance and member outcomes.

Q. Who will be affected by this Demonstration?

A: The retroactive eligibility waiver applies to all Medicaid beneficiaries.

Q. Will there be any changes to benefits or cost sharing?

A: This Demonstration does not propose changes to benefits or cost sharing. All beneficiaries will continue to receive the same benefit package and cost sharing will remain the same as currently provided under the Nebraska Medicaid State Plan.

Q. Will there be any changes to the Medicaid delivery system and payment rates for services?

A: This Demonstration will utilize Nebraska’s existing managed care delivery system. No changes to payment methodologies are proposed as part of this Demonstration.

Q: When will these changes take effect?

A: The retroactive eligibility waiver will apply to new applications submitted on and after October 1, 2026.

Q: Will there be an opportunity to provide feedback on this proposed waiver?

A: Comments may be submitted to MLTC by March 26, 2026. Comments and questions about the proposed waiver Demonstration application can be submitted:

- By email to: DHHS.Demonstrationwaivers@nebraska.gov
- By mail to:
 - Department of Health and Human Services Nebraska Medicaid
 - ATTN: Sustainable Coverage Waiver
 - P.O. Box 95026
 - Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5026
- In person during the public hearings:

Hearing/ Meeting Date	Time	Location	Teleconference #
Legislative Hearing – Friday, February 27, 2026	1:30pm Central Standard Time	Nebraska State Capitol - Room 1510	Watch live: https://nebraskapublicmedia.org/en/watch/live/

		1445 K St. Lincoln, NE 68508	
Monthly Tribal Call, Wednesday March 4, 2026	9:00am Central Standard Time	Webex Meeting	Webex Link: https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=m058e5fdc31dda5ad6fde6e2651a2ea9 Webinar number: 2483 611 2756 Webinar password: SPvnYJSi332 Join by phone: +1-408-418-9388
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	3:00- 4:30pm Central Standard Time	Charles H. Gere Branch Library - 2400 S 56 th Street Lincoln, NE 68506	Webex Link: https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=m2f01f43d3ebb99a68c660d4c066da659
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	11:00am- 12:30pm Central Standard Time	Kearney Public Library – 2020 1 st Ave Kearney, NE, 68847	Webex Link: https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=mf484d4cdb7adae0baf2d7c7db5479477