

Notice of Application to Extend the TennCare II Demonstration

Published November 9, 2020

The Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration is providing official notification of intent to file an application to extend the TennCare II demonstration. This application will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Description

TennCare is a Medicaid demonstration program that has operated under waivers of certain provisions of federal law since 1994. All Medicaid beneficiaries in Tennessee receive services through the TennCare demonstration. The principle being “demonstrated” by TennCare is that a state can organize its Medicaid program under a single, statewide managed care service delivery system without spending more than the Medicaid program would have spent in the absence of the demonstration program and without compromising quality of care. The TennCare demonstration is one of the longest-lasting and most comprehensive Medicaid managed care programs in the country.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is the federal agency that oversees TennCare. CMS authorizes TennCare to operate for specific periods of time referred to as “approval periods.” The TennCare demonstration is currently authorized through June 30, 2021. In order for the TennCare demonstration to continue operating past that date, the State of Tennessee intends to request an extension of the TennCare demonstration from CMS. The duration of the extension being requested is July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2031.

Waiver and Expenditure Authorities

The extension application will request continuation of all currently approved waiver and expenditure authorities. In addition, Tennessee intends to request a small number of modifications to the demonstration for the upcoming approval period, most notably to more fully integrate services for persons with disabilities into the state’s larger managed care service delivery system. The state will request that the demonstration’s special terms and conditions be modified to reflect these changes.

Expected Impact on Enrollment and Expenditures

This extension application is not projected to have an impact on TennCare enrollment or expenditures. Under the proposed extension, all Medicaid beneficiaries in Tennessee will continue to receive services through the TennCare demonstration.



Hypothesis and Evaluation Parameters

The state is not proposing any changes to its current evaluation design.

Public Notice Process

The Division of TennCare has taken a variety of steps to ensure that members of the public are aware of the upcoming application to extend the TennCare demonstration and have an opportunity to provide input. These measures include publishing information about the extension application (including a draft of the application itself) for public review on the TennCare website, posting information on various social media, and publishing notices in the newspapers of widest circulation in Tennessee communities with 50,000 or more residents.

Public Input Process

TennCare invites interested members of the public to offer comments regarding the extension application from November 9, 2020, through December 11, 2020.

Members of the public who wish to comment on the TennCare extension application may do so through either of the following options:

- Comments may be sent by email to public.notice.tennCare@tn.gov.
- Comments may be mailed to

Stephen Smith, Director
Division of TennCare
310 Great Circle Road
Nashville, TN 37243.

TennCare will also hold two hearings on the extension application for persons who do not wish to submit written comments. These hearings will be held electronically. The details of these two hearings are as follow:

- Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time / 10:00 a.m. Central Time.
This hearing may be accessed at this URL:
<https://tngov.webex.com/tngov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e684e451e1e0ed3d9288702276f7f9647>
- Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time / 3:00 p.m. Central Time.
This hearing may be accessed at this URL:



<https://tngov.webex.com/tngov/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb2d031fdcb02a6af816dd6a1e3cae764>

Individuals with disabilities or individuals with limited English proficiency who wish to participate in one of the hearings and who may require language or communication assistance to do so should contact Talley Olson of TennCare's Office of Civil Rights Compliance by phone at (855) 857-1673 or by email at HCFA.fairtreatment@tn.gov prior to the date of the hearing.

TennCare always appreciates input. In order to be considered for the final draft of the extension application, comments must be received no later than December 11, 2020. Individuals wishing to view comments submitted by members of the public may submit their requests to the same physical address and/or email address at which comments are being accepted.

Draft of Extension Application

A draft of TennCare's extension application is available for review at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents2/DraftTennCareExtensionApplication.pdf>. Copies of the extension application are also available in each county office of the Tennessee Department of Health. Once comments received during the public input period have been reviewed and considered, a final draft of the extension application will be prepared. The final application will be submitted to CMS no later than December 31, 2020, and will then be made available on the TennCare website.

TennCare Page on CMS Web Site

As the federal agency with oversight authority over all Medicaid programs, CMS offers its own online resources regarding the TennCare demonstration. Interested parties may view these materials at

https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/waivers_faceted.html.

