

2018-2019 BUDGET QUESTION

Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Austin Public Health

REQUEST NO.: 146

REQUESTED BY: Adler

DATE REQUESTED: 8/30/18

DATE POSTED: 9/7/18

REQUEST: Please provide a comprehensive list of projects funded by the Federal 1115 Medicaid waiver program across the City of Austin, Travis and Williamson County, Austin Travis County Integral Care, and Central Health. Please also detail any preparation taken by the City of Austin or other regional entities to address the loss of federal funding for continuing operations.

RESPONSE: In December 2017, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) granted an extension of five additional years to extend the 1115 Waiver from January 2018 to September 2022. The program is expected to be phased out on October 1, 2022. Additionally, while the original 1115 Medicaid Waiver utilized project-based reporting, the new 1115 Medicaid Waiver funding requires achievement of specific metrics related to the health of the entire service population. Due to this change in reporting, some projects that were previously funded are not receiving funding because they do not meet the system-level achievement of outcome metrics.

Below are explanations for each of the requested entity's 1115 Medicaid Waiver program. Attached are a list of projects funded by the City of Austin's 1115 Medicaid Waiver Program and a full list of the projects across the region.

Central Health

From 2012 to 2017, the Texas 1115 Medicaid Waiver Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program provided payments to six Travis County performing providers, including St. David's, University Medical Center Brackenridge, Dell Children's Medical Center, and Community Care Collaborative. These providers implemented 56 DSRIP projects targeting Medicaid, low-income, and uninsured patients that were designed to increase access to health care, improve the quality of care, and lower costs. Funding came from a combination of local tax dollars and federal Medicaid funds. Toward the end of the original waiver period, some DSRIP funding shifted from process metrics to the achievement of population health metrics.

CMS and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) agreed to extend the DSRIP program for four more years beginning in 2018. In this iteration, metrics are no longer based on project work. Instead, metrics are based on achieving target goals for selected health outcome measures for broader populations. DSRIP providers presented their proposed plans to regional stakeholders on April 6, 2018. Central Health, as the Anchor for region's Regional Healthcare Partnership (RHP) 7, provides technical support for the nine DSRIP providers in RHP 7, facilitates community engagement, and serves as a liaison with HHSC for program administration. As the Anchor for RHP 7, Central Health submitted plans to HHSC for approval on April 30, 2018; HHSC granted approval of the plan on June 30, 2018.

City of Austin

Austin Public Health sets aside DSRIP payments into Fund 1115. These sustainability funds and Austin Public Health's new DSRIP payments will be able to sustain City of Austin projects and services into FY 2024.

Travis County

Direct administrative control over any 1115 Waiver funding does not fall under Travis County, as that role is under Central Health.

Williamson County

Williamson County did not provide a response.

Integral Care

Integral Care has operated the 1115 Medicaid Waiver since 2013. Integral Care took advantage of the 1115 Medicaid Waiver, developing and implementing 11 transformational projects. Since the program's inception in 2013, Integral Care has worked to fully integrate and sustain the 1115 Waiver services. Strategically, staff have worked to garner sustainability funds through expanded local partnerships, increased staff productivity, increased fee for service revenue, and negotiating value-based payment arrangements with managed-care organizations (MCO). Through these efforts, the majority of Integral Care's services are integrated into ongoing programming and aligned with the focus of better quality and care for the individuals it serves. Two projects, Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Team and First Steps, were not able to be integrated or aligned with the new Waiver. Integral Care is seeking funding from the City of Austin and Travis County to maintain EMCOT Services (see Council Budget Question #65), and the First Steps program was phased out beginning in 2017 and fully discontinued in July 2018.