



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

September 3, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services  
The Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As part of the State of New Hampshire's comprehensive and integrated approach to address the mental health needs of our citizens, I have the pleasure of submitting the State of New Hampshire's amendment application for its Section 1115(a) demonstration, titled the "New Hampshire Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Access Section 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment #2 Request: Mental Health Services for Medicaid Beneficiaries with Serious Mental Illness."

This amendment will enable NH Department of Health and Human Services to claim federal reimbursement for payment of services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries ages 21-64 receiving short-term inpatient psychiatric treatment or short-term residential mental health treatment in an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD).

We have worked in cooperation with our federal partners in Washington to implement the State's vision for its mental health system, which mirrors the goals of this amendment: one that is robust and cohesive; respects the dignity and centrality of the whole person; empowers individuals, families, and communities; and reduces stigma while facilitating rapid access to a coordinated, high quality array of localized services and supports for all.

This amendment will further the objectives of Title XIX by increasing access to and strengthening providers and provider networks available to serve Medicaid populations in the State. This amendment is intended to allow for the full continuum of care while the State remains focused on community-based and individual and family driven services.

New Hampshire is requesting that CMS waive Section 1905(a)(30)(B) of the Social Security Act, 42 CFR 438.6(e), and 42 CFR 435.1010 to allow reimbursement for Medicaid beneficiaries ages 21-64 receiving short-term inpatient psychiatric treatment or short-term residential mental health treatment in IMDs.

The enclosed application reflects the program elements outlined in the November 13, 2018 State Medicaid Director (SMD #18--011) guidance for "Opportunities to Design Innovative Service Delivery Systems for Adults with a Serious Mental Illness or Children with a Serious Emotional Disturbance," discussions with CMS, and all public notice and transparency requirements established by federal law.

The State of New Hampshire appreciates an expedited approval of this application, which will improve outcomes for our citizens seeking mental health treatment—a need that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) and measures taken to mitigate the PHE.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Mr. Daniel Tsai, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services  
Ms. Judith Cash, Director, State Demonstrations Group  
Ms. Kathryn Holt, Regional Administrator, CMS Boston Regional Office  
The Honorable Chuck Morse, President of the NH Senate  
The Honorable Sherman Packard, Speaker of the NH House  
Commissioner Lori Shibinette, NH Department of Health and Human Services