

NEBRASKA



Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

Nebraska Medicaid Expansion Report
April 2020

May 26, 2020

Prepared in Accordance with LB 294 (2019)

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

May 26, 2020

Clerk of the Legislature
Legislative Fiscal Office
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Clerk of the Legislature and Legislative Fiscal Office:

In accordance with LB 294 (2019) please find attached a report on Medicaid Expansion Administrative and Aid policy decisions for the calendar month of April 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact Nate Watson, JD and Cert Legis Prac, Deputy Director for Policy and Regulations, at nate.watson@nebraska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeremy Brunssen, Interim Director
Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachments: 2

Medicaid Expansion Programs 249 (Administration) & 349 (Aid)

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC), provides the following update regarding Medicaid Expansion Administrative and Aid policy decisions for the calendar month of April 2020:

On April 10, 2020, DHHS announced that the federal government would not be able to conduct a complete review of our section 1115 demonstration waiver in time for the start of expansion due to the federal government's primary focus on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expansion, itself, will still start on time. DHHS will still accept Medicaid applications from the adult expansion group on August 1, 2020, and benefits will still begin on October 1, 2020.

Due to their temporary circumstances, pregnant women, adults aged 19 and 20, and medically frail individuals will still receive the prime benefits package (which consists of the basic benefits package plus dental, vision, and over-the-counter medications coverage) without having to engage in the wellness, personal responsibility, or community engagement activities. All other participating individuals will receive the basic benefits package, which is a comprehensive and robust benefits package of physical and behavioral health and prescription drugs coverage. Once the 1115 waiver is approved by CMS and implemented by the state, individuals that begin the program in basic will have the opportunity to qualify to receive prime benefits. Currently, MLTC is anticipating to implement provisions pending approval via the 1115 Waiver on April 1, 2021.

MLTC continues to work with the federal government on its review of our 1115 waiver application and state plan amendments. For example, MLTC responded to the federal government's request for additional information on our state plan amendment for the basic benefits package in April, as well as informal questions received regarding the demonstration waiver application. MLTC also met with CMS to discuss how individuals will be able to transfer from the federally facilitated exchange to the Medicaid adult expansion group.

MLTC has also completed contract amendments with the managed care entities' (MCE) to provide for coverage of the new adult expansion group, as well as updated operational and program requirements. The amendments are currently with the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and will be sent to the MCEs for review after DAS completes its review. The MCE contract amendment, which will include the capitation rates for the adult expansion group is currently being drafted. MLTC received the Heritage Health Adult program capitation rate certification letter from the state's contracted actuary, which will accompany the contract amendment containing the capitation rates, when transmitted to CMS for review and approval.

Discussions continue and are ongoing with our federal and Nebraska partners. Implementation remains on track for October 1, 2020.

For the latest project schedule, please refer to the attached timeline.

Heritage Health Adult Alternative Implementation Plan Timeline

4/7/2020

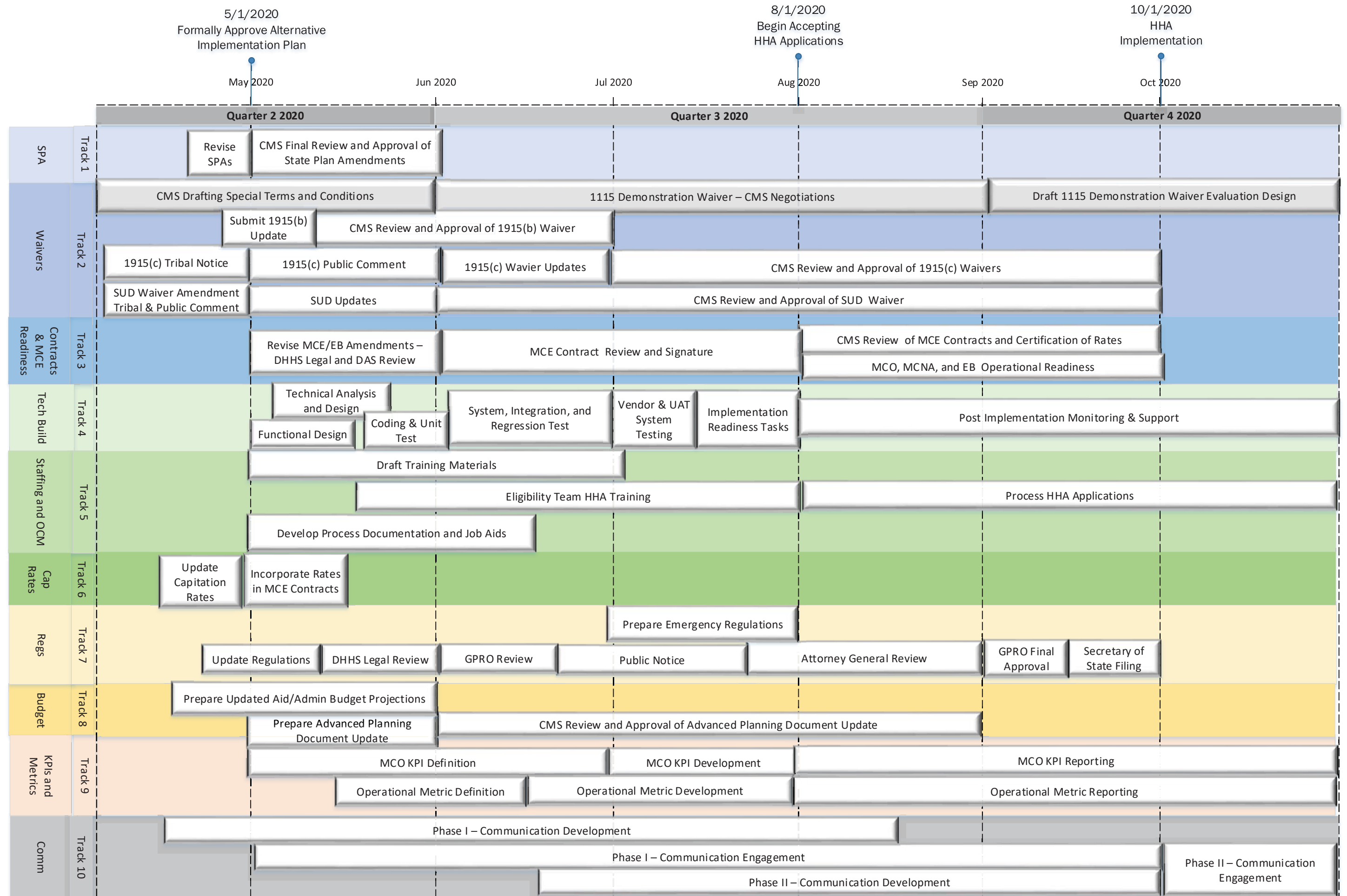


Figure 1: HHA Alternative Implementation Timeline – Draft Projection