

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Quarterly Report

Bureau of Health Services Financing

Louisiana Department of Health

October 2024



News and Updates

Healthy Louisiana Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for Louisiana Medicaid members begins October 15, 2024. Members can change their health or dental plan without a qualifying reason until 6 p.m. on December 2, 2024. Changes will go into effect next year on January 1, 2025. If members make no changes, they will keep their current health or dental plan.

In August, Medicaid mailed packets that included enrollment forms, comparison charts and instructions for changing plans to all members included in this Open Enrollment period. Members can change their health or dental plan by completing and returning the enrollment form included with their letter by mail or fax. They may also make plan changes on the Healthy Louisiana mobile app, available for download on [Apple](#) and [Android](#) device; online at myplan.healthy.la.gov; or by calling toll-free 1-855-229-6848.

There are six health plans to choose from:

- Aetna Better Health of Louisiana
- AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana
- Healthy Blue
- Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana
- Louisiana Healthcare Connections
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Louisiana

Additionally, there are two dental plans to choose from:

- DentaQuest
- MCNA

Members are encouraged to visit myplan.healthy.la.gov when deciding whether to keep their current plan or change to another plan for 2025. The website offers a number of resources including:

- Comparison charts for both the health and dental plans, detailing the extra services each plan provides. All health and dental plans offer the same basic benefits and health and dental management programs.
- A provider search tool. Members are also encouraged to confirm whether their providers are enrolled with their chosen health or dental plan.

Enrollees who want to keep their current health and dental plans do not need to do anything. If they are still eligible for Medicaid, they will stay with their health and dental plan for another year. Members with questions can call 1-855-229-6848 (TTY: 1-855-526-3346), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The call is free.

LDH, Medicaid Web Site Revisions

The Louisiana Department of Health website, including all Medicaid web pages, is currently undergoing a comprehensive redesign. The new version is scheduled to launch in November.

The new structure will prioritize visitor's needs, organizing information based on the programs and topics someone is looking for, rather than by specific office or agency responsible for those areas. The overall design will also be more visually appealing, with intuitive design and graphic tools that makes it easier to find the information you need.

During this development period, Medicaid took the opportunity to streamline the website. This included removing outdated and irrelevant pages; updating stagnant content; consolidating duplicate pages; and making information easier to find. We continue to test the structure and flow of the sites and update content until the launch in November. During that transition, should you encounter any issues - broken links, missing or inaccurate content, please reach out to our team at healthy@la.gov to let us know.

Transforming Maternal Health Model (TMaH)

The Louisiana Department of Health is in the process of apply for a funding opportunity through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that focuses on improving maternal health through a 10-year service delivery and payment model.

Through its Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) model, CMS intends to issue cooperative endeavor agreements to up to 15 state Medicaid agencies. Those selected agencies will be eligible to receive up to \$17 million over the course of a 10-year model implementation. The grant will focus on three areas:

1. Access, Infrastructure, and Workforce
2. Quality Improvement and Safety
3. Whole Person Care Delivery

Partnership between LDH and providers and other stakeholders is essential to the successful implementation of the strategies to address those areas. Providers and stakeholders with a vested interest in improving maternal health outcomes in Louisiana were encouraged to attend one of LDH's stakeholder meetings in September to learn more about TMaH and the additional services associated with the funding portion of the model.

During the meetings, LDH provided an outline of the TMaH model, its requirements, and any identified coverage gaps and proposed solutions for those gaps. Attendees had the opportunity to share feedback on the draft proposal and offer suggestions for other activities they considered essential to include. LDH has created a TMaH webpage at <https://ldh.la.gov/TMaH>, where all application development and submission details are housed.

LDH submitted its proposal ahead of the September 20th deadline. CMS anticipates award announcements sometime in mid-December.

1115 Reentry Demonstration Waiver

On September 27, 2024, LDH submitted an application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a Section 1115 demonstration waiver. This demonstration waiver will allow Medicaid coverage of certain services to Medicaid-eligible individuals who are incarcerated up to 90 days prior to their release. LDH is partnering with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections on this demonstration. Those participating in the demonstration will have access to services including but not limited to case management, medication-assisted treatment and counseling for substance use disorders, and a 30-day supply of all prescription medications. Eligible carceral settings will include all state prison facilities and up to 13 parish jails. Goals of the demonstration include improving care transitions and continuity of coverage, improving health outcomes, and supporting successful reentry of individuals into society.

For more information on this project, please visit the following web site:

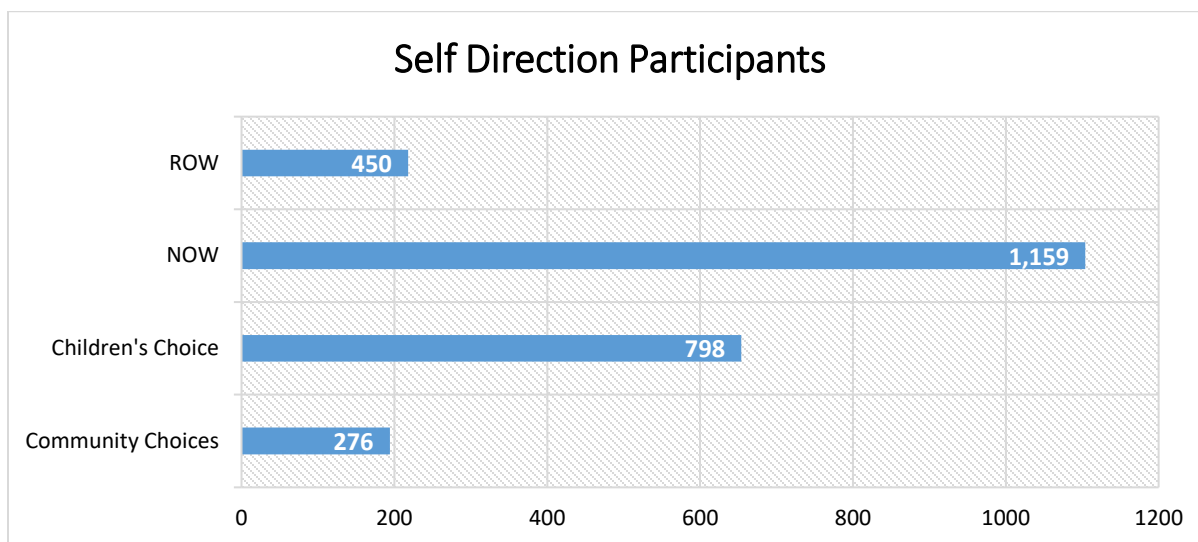
www.ldh.la.gov/1115Reentry.

Programs and Services

Self-Direction

Self-Direction is a service delivery option for some waiver participants which allows them, or an authorized representative, to become the employer of the people they choose to hire to provide in-home supports. As the employer, participants or their authorized representative are responsible for recruiting, training, supervising, and managing the people they choose to hire. This option gives participants the most control over their supports but also requires the most responsibility. Self-Direction is based on the principles of self-determination, which means that you have the ability or right to make your own decisions. As of August 31, 2024, there were 2,683 individuals enrolled in the Self-Direction waiver service option. See below participant breakdown by waiver:

Figure 1. Self-Direction Enrollment by Waiver as of August 2024



Participants in the Residential Options Waiver (ROW), New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Children’s Choice Waiver, and Community Choices Waiver who are interested in self-direction are offered freedom of choice to select a fiscal employer agent (FEA): Acumen or Morning Sun. Currently, Acumen provides FEA services to 75.5% of those self-directing their services and Morning Sun provides FEA services to 24.5%.

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/subhome/67> for additional information on the self-direction program.

Act 421 Children’s Medicaid Option/TEFRA

The Act 421 Children’s Medicaid Option (Act 421-CMO) or TEFRA program provides Medicaid eligibility to children under the age of 19 who have disabilities and meet institutional level of care requirements, regardless of parental income and resources. To qualify, children must have a disability that is recognized under the definition utilized in the Supplemental Security Income program of the Social Security Administration and must meet basic Medicaid and institutional level-of-care requirements. Additionally, their care at home must cost less than care provided in an institution. More than 2,600 children have been approved for Medicaid coverage through this program who would not otherwise be eligible since its implementation in 2022.

Table 1. Act 421-CMO/TEFRA Application and Enrollment Data as of September 6, 2024

Applications Received	
Total Applications Received	5,623
Applications Received in 2024	1,590
Applications Approved	
Total Number Approved	2,612
Number Approved in 2024	860
Currently Enrolled	2,086

You may visit <http://www.ldh.la.gov/Act421> for additional information on the Act 421-CMO/TEFRA program. You may also email us at 421-CMO@LA.GOV or call at 1-800-230-0690.

Money Follows the Person

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program is a federal grant administered by OAAS, OCDD, and Medicaid to assist in transitioning eligible individuals out of institutional settings so they may receive home and community-based services in their homes. As of August 1, 2024, more than 4,292 individuals have transitioned out of qualified institutions (hospitals, nursing facilities and supports and services centers) through the MFP program in Louisiana. In calendar year 2024, 166 participants have transitioned out of institutional settings under the MFP program.

You may visit MyPlaceLouisiana.com for additional information on the MFP/My Place program.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy Services

Behavior analysis is based on a scientific study of how people learn. By doing research, techniques have been developed that increase useful behavior (including communication) and reduce harmful behavior. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy uses these techniques. ABA is helpful in treating autism spectrum disorders.

Table 2. ABA Utilization for August 2024

	ACLA	AETNA	Healthy Blue	Humana	LHCC	UHC	TOTALS
Number of CCMs with ASD	1,208	232	432	15	753	525	3,165
Number of PAs Requested for CCMs with ASD	20	9	32	19	233	45	358
Number of PAs approved for CCMs with ASD	20	9	32	19	233	45	358
Number of PAs denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Claims Paid for CCMs with ASD	\$264,219	\$147,468	\$338,359	\$40,878	\$652,638	\$495,179	\$5,938,739

PA = Prior Authorization

CCMs = Chisholm Class Members

ASD = Autism Spectrum Disorder

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/page/applied-behavior-analysis> for additional information on ABA services.

EPSDT Support Coordination

Medicaid eligible children/youth under the age of 21 on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry or those meeting criteria for children with special needs are eligible to receive EPSDT Support Coordination services. This service assists beneficiaries with gaining access to the full range of needed services including medical, social, educational and other services. This includes all services that beneficiaries under age 21 may be entitled to receive through the EPSDT benefit. The support coordinator reviews all available services and assists with making referrals for the services they may be eligible to receive. These may include services such as medical equipment, occupational, physical or speech therapy, personal care service, home health and EPSDT screening. Support coordinators conduct follow-up visits or phone calls monthly to ensure beneficiaries are receiving all authorized services.

As of September 2024, there are approximately 900 children/youth receiving EPSDT Support Coordination services.