

NEBRASKA



Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

Nebraska Medicaid Expansion Report
August 2020

September 30, 2020

Prepared in Accordance with LB 294 (2019)

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

September 30, 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 August 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jeremy.brunssen@nebraska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JB", with a long horizontal line 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 August 2020:

On August 1, DHHS began accepting applications for coverage through Medicaid expansion. This step included beginning to transfer some Medicaid cases into the Medicaid expansion eligibility category, as these cases may more properly fit under expansion than the various ways they are eligible for Medicaid today. As of close of business August 31, 2020, there were a total of 5,218 individuals determined eligible for expansion.

DHHS continued productive discussions with our federal partners regarding the Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver for Medicaid expansion. In August, DHHS received and responded to requests for language clarifications and questions related to confirming who is participating in the demonstration and benefits covered through the demonstration.

The federal government also clarified for DHHS that an amendment was not required to add the Medicaid expansion eligibility group as a covered category under the state's current Section 1115 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) demonstration program. The approved State Plan Amendments adding the expansion populations to the Medicaid program are sufficient for ensuring coverage of this group under the SUD demonstration waiver.

The recruiting and training of additional DHHS staff continued through August. Training on Medicaid expansion was completed for all MLTC staff who are determining eligibility for the expansion program. DHHS continues to recruit, hire, and train new Social Service Workers, the staff making the eligibility determinations.

DHHS also completed its hiring of the Medically Frail nursing team. The Medically Frail review team has begun reviewing cases. At the close of business August 31, there were a total of 139 individual's determined Medically Frail beneficiaries.

DHHS also continued efforts to communicate with the public about the implementation of expansion and the ability for Nebraskans to apply for benefits through Medicaid Expansion. In addition to meetings with providers, community partners, and other agencies, the department ramped up communications through formal and informal public service announcements via radio, television, and social media channels.

The technology systems supporting the Medicaid expansion project saw notable updates in August. Code to support the Heritage Health Adult project in N-FOCUS, ACCESSNebraska, MMIS, and OnBase systems moved to production. DHHS Information Systems & Technology and MLTC continue to discuss 1115 waiver demonstration requirements for these technology systems.

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
8/31/20

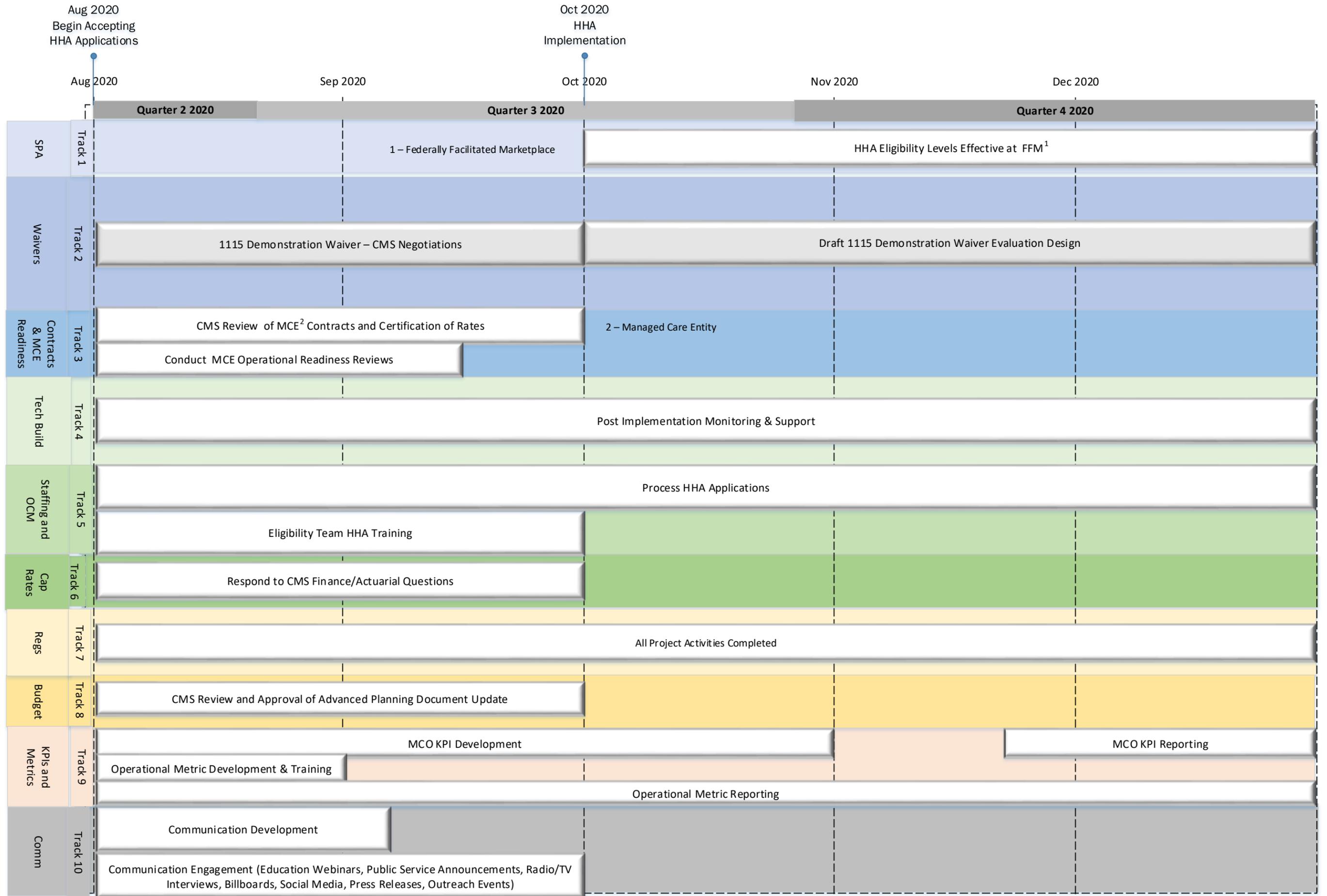


Figure 1: HHA Alternative Implementation Timeline