



Kim Reynolds, Governor  
Chris Cournoyer, Lieutenant Governor

Larry Johnson, Director

January 21, 2026

Mark Campbell  
Department of Administration Services  
Hoover State Office Building  
1305 East Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Director Campbell,

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is seeking a waiver as described in 11 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) Section 118.16 regarding contract MED-21-008, Program-Related Research Services with the University of Iowa. This contract is for the Evaluation of the Iowa Wellness Plan Section 1115 Demonstration.

Specifically, HHS Iowa Medicaid is seeking a waiver of the six-year contract duration limitation set forth in IAC 118.11(3) applicable to service contracts. The current agreement between HHS Iowa Medicaid and the University of Iowa is set to expire on June 30, 2026. With the extensions granted by CMS, this extends the due date of some deliverables to June 30, 2028.

CMS requires an independent party conduct an evaluation of the 1115 Demonstration to ensure that the necessary data is collected at the level of detail needed to study the effectiveness of the demonstration, as specified in the special terms and conditions. The state must require the independent party to sign an agreement that the independent party will conduct the demonstration evaluation in an independent manner in accord with the CMS-approved Evaluation Design. University of Iowa was chosen as the independent party that would conduct the evaluation.

The Iowa Wellness Plan Section 1115 Demonstration was set to end on December 31, 2024, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has extended the demonstration by temporary extensions through December 31, 2026. CMS indicated temporary extensions were appropriate to allow Iowa Medicaid to prepare to accommodate changes to the Demonstration based on Working Families Tax Cut legislation (also known as HR1/OBBBA) for community engagement requirements.

The temporary extension builds on the evaluation plan submitted with the most recent demonstration renewal, which has been completed by the University of Iowa throughout the demonstration. The evaluation deliverables, that are to be completed by the University of Iowa for the Iowa Wellness Plan Section 1115 Demonstration, outlined in the most recent temporary extension are listed in the table below.

Deliverable	Submission Timeline
Interim Evaluation Report	One year prior to the end of the demonstration period, or when the extension application is submitted, whichever is sooner. Revised no later than 60 days after receipt of CMS comments
Summative Evaluation Report	No later than 18 months after the end of the demonstration period. Report due June 2028 Revised no later than 60 days after receipt of CMS comments
Close-Out Report	No later than 120 calendar days after expiration of the demonstration. (applicable if demonstration or demonstration component expires) Report re: NEMT sunseting due April 2027

If HHS Iowa Medicaid were to have to reprocure the work, or switch to a new vendor, this could result in a disruption to the deliverables required for the Demonstration and Evaluation Plan as approved by CMS. We would have to bring a new vendor up to speed on the work previously completed by University of Iowa, which would take considerable time, effort and considerably higher expenses.

With these concerns in mind, HHS Iowa Medicaid requests that you grant a waiver of Iowa Administrative Code Section 118.11(3) to extend contract MED-21-008 for an additional two years to June 30, 2028.

Sincerely,



Larry Johnson  
HHS Director

cc: Lee Grossman, Medicaid Director  
Rebecca Curtiss, Medicaid Deputy Director of Operations



Mark Campbell, DAS Director