

*Originally submitted as email to Waiver Renewal inbox*

In response to the draft 1115 waiver renewal that was circulated for public comment last week, Children Now has two recommendations for inclusion in the 1115 waiver:

1) The Values-Based Incentives pilot for oral health as described in the first attachment. Children Now has played an advisory role to this project and understands that several conversations about the pilot design were had with DHCS, including that implementation of the pilot would require CMS waiver authority.

2) Per the attached memo from the Children's Dental Health Project, we support the two options that require consideration to be included in the 1115 waiver:

- a) Pursue pilot projects that engage Medicaid contractors in developing and implementing local area patient-centered pediatric oral health care demonstrations, payment incentives, and quality measurement (such as the values-based incentive pilot described above), and
- b) Establish an “early childhood health home” MCO contract that includes dental coverage

Given the gravity of the recent Denti-Cal audit, we strongly recommend that the 1115 waiver with respect to dental services include the ideas above. As the backbone of the state's safety net, we believe these ideas will help to advance the agency's mission to provide Californians with access to affordable, high-quality health care.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eileen Espejo

Director of Media & Health Policy

Children Now