

# State of Alaska Department of Health

## The Role of Section 1115 Waivers in Medicaid: Opportunities and Updates

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# Medicaid Basics



- Medicaid is a public health insurance program for low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities.
  - Administered at the state level, subject to federal requirements
  - Jointly financed by the federal government and the state
- Alaska adopted Medicaid in 1972.



# What Is An 1115 Waiver?



1115 waivers give states the ability to tailor their Medicaid programs by testing and evaluating **state-specific policy approaches**.



Under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, the U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary has the authority to waive compliance with Medicaid law to approve “any experimental, pilot or demonstration project” that promotes the objectives of the Act.



Demonstrations may be very broad or very narrow.



Demonstrations can be used to test innovative care **delivery systems**, to add or alter **benefits**, and to modify **eligibility**.



Demonstrations must be **budget-neutral** for the federal government.

# Alaska's Current 1115 Waiver



The **Behavioral Health Reform** 1115 waiver aims to provide cost-effective, high-quality behavioral health services at the right time in the right setting.

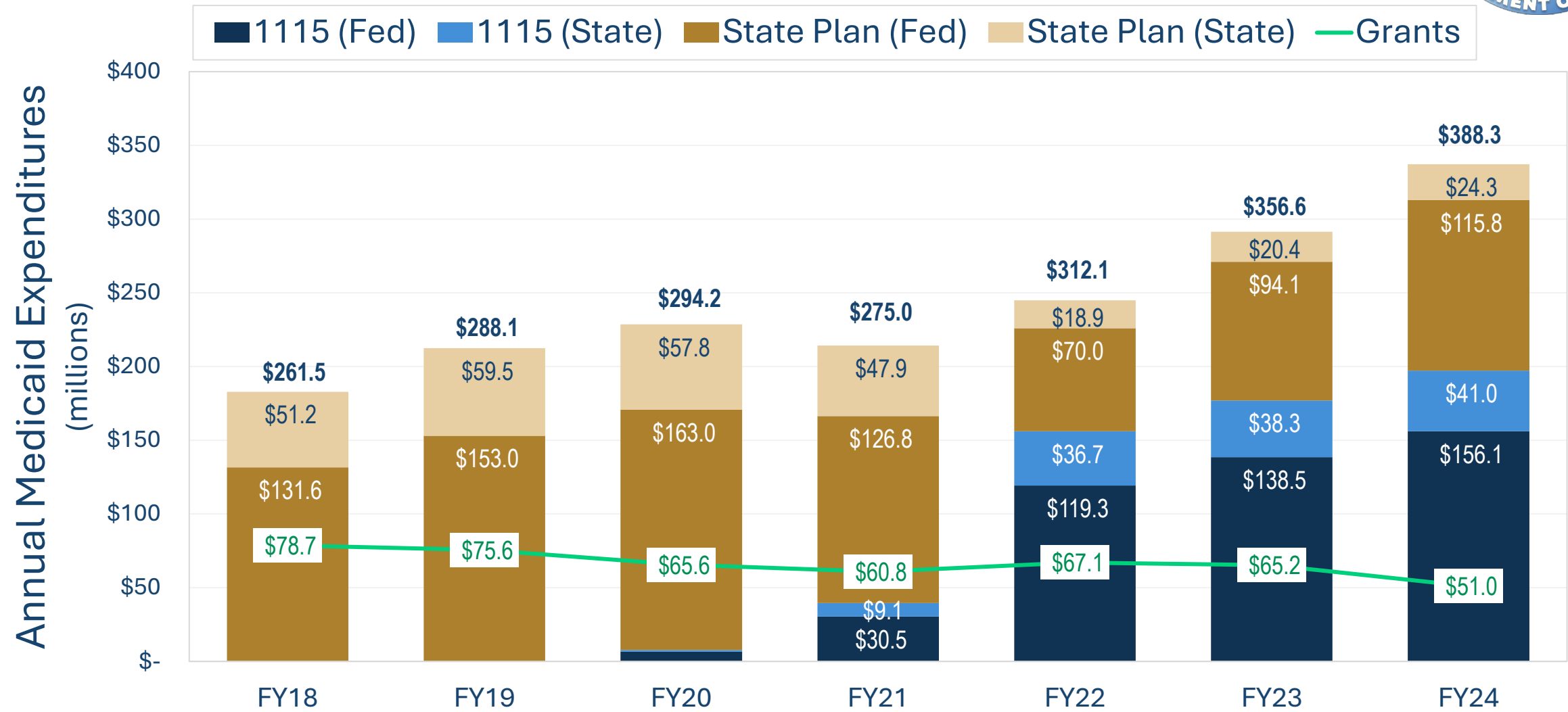


- **Increase** access to community-based care
- **Intervene** as early as possible to address behavioral health symptoms
- **Improve** quality and outcomes of the overall behavioral health system

# Alaska's Current 1115 Waiver: Timeline

<b>2016</b>	SB 74 passes, directing the Department to pursue an 1115 waiver for behavioral health system modernization.
<b>2017</b>	Department drafts 1115 waiver application (includes behavioral health and substance use disorder components).
<b>2018</b>	Waiver application submitted for federal approval. Substance use disorder component of waiver is approved.
<b>2019</b>	Substance use disorder waiver services available to Alaskans. Behavioral health component of waiver is approved.
<b>2020</b>	Behavioral health waiver services available to Alaskans.
<b>2021</b>	Department develops regulations packages, billing manuals, other ongoing operational requirements.
<b>2022</b>	Interim evaluation report is submitted.
<b>2023</b>	Department begins process for waiver renewal and receives federal approval for a temporary extension.
<b>2024</b>	Waiver is renewed to 12/31/2028 and renamed to Behavioral Health Reform waiver.

# Medicaid Expenditures for Behavioral Health





# Refining and Sustaining Services



Waiver services are evaluated on an ongoing basis as part of a continuous improvement process.



**Move** services into state plan



**Retain** services in waiver



**Modify** services in waiver

# New 1115 Opportunities

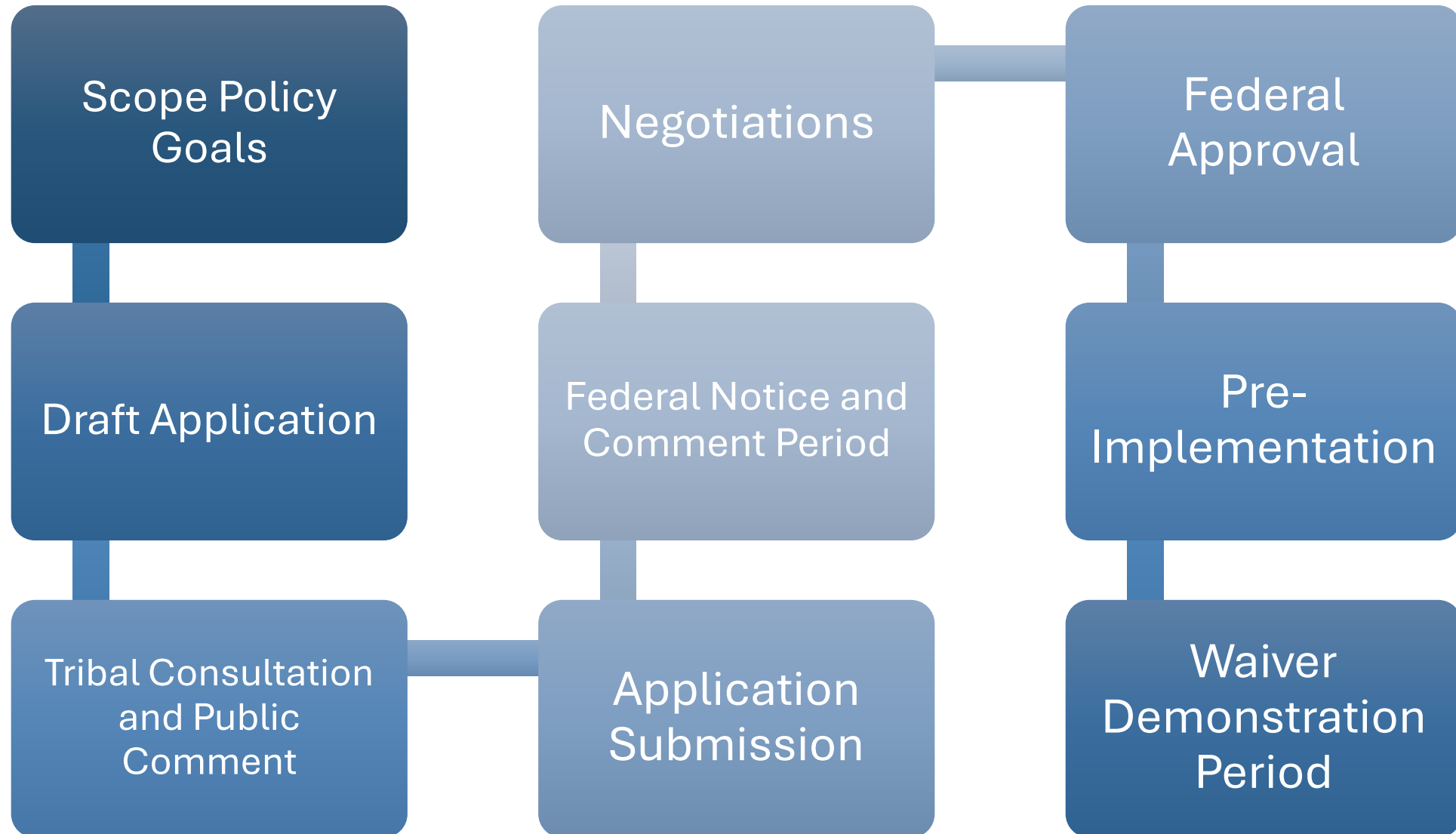


The Department continues to pursue additional 1115 demonstration opportunities to enhance the Medicaid program.





# Process and Timeline for 1115 Waivers



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