

Combined Medicare-Medicaid plan to be offered in select areas

A new pilot program in six of Texas' most populous counties will give people with both Medicaid and Medicare coverage a chance to combine that coverage into one health plan – a STAR+PLUS Medicare-Medicaid plan.

Those who qualify for the pilot program – known as “dual-eligible clients” – must be 21 or older, in STAR+PLUS and also enrolled in Medicare parts A, B and D.

The pilot program is the collaborative effort of HHSC and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that administers Medicare.

Over the next six months, 131,000 dual-eligible clients in Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Hidalgo and Tarrant counties will get letters telling them that they will be enrolled in a new STAR+PLUS Medicare-Medicaid plan. Clients will have 60 days to decide whether to move to the combined plan or stay with their existing arrangement – separate plans for Medicare and Medicaid services.

The pilot program is set to begin March 1 and continue until the end of 2018. The goal is to give dual-eligible clients the option to have one managed care plan that offers both Medicare and Medicaid services, as opposed to having to deal with one plan for Medicare services and one Medicaid. It also gives HHSC and CMS the chance to see, on a small scale, how the new payment and service delivery model will work.

Clients who decide not to participate in the STAR+PLUS Medicare-Medicaid program can go back to separate plans for Medicare and STAR+PLUS Medicaid by calling 1-877-782-6440. To learn more about the pilot project, visit the [Texas Dual Eligible Integrated Care Project](#) page of the HHSC website.