



4350 E. Cotton Center Boulevard
Building D
Phoenix, Arizona 85040
Phone (602) 263-3000
Toll Free (800) 624-3879

December 19, 2014

Kari Price, Assistant Director
AHCCCS/ALTCS Administration
701 E. Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Dear Ms. Price,

AHCCCS is considering extending the ALTCS contract until 2017 and requested public comment.

Mercy Care Plan supports the extension of the ALTCS contract for an additional 12 months for several reasons:

- Members will remain with the same program contractor for another year and will be able to receive services from providers and a plan that they know.
- Delaying the release of the RFP by one year potentially minimizes a significant disruption to the provider network as they may need to re-contract with a new Program Contractor which could cause disruptions and impact the members.
- The healthcare industry continues to change. CMS plans to release new HCBS rules that may impact the State's 1115 waiver, and the Department of Labor revised the Fair Labor Standard Act that impacts attendant care agencies.
- The RFP process is labor-intensive for both AHCCCS and the bidders.
- Extending the contract by a year will allow AHCCCS additional time to prepare the RFP and will enable both AHCCCS and the current contractors to focus on the changes within the health care industry.
- The extension will also give the current contractors an additional year to continue with planned improvements and enhancements.

In summary, Mercy Care Plan supports extending the current ALTCS contracts for an additional contract year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for clarification or any other questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Chad Corbett, M.P.A., HS-BCP
V.P., Long Term Care

CC:cw