

Why Somos suggests splitting the state's DSRIP request into two parts

Somos Community Care is urging the state to split up a request for a four-year waiver amendment to support the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program.

Ricardo Rivera, chief development officer at Somos, said the physician-led performing provider system is suggesting the state break the request into "two parallel and independent acts." He explained the rationale to *Crain's* following a [state-sponsored hearing](#) on the waiver amendment Friday.

The first request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services should be a one-year extension of the current iteration of DSRIP, which is set to expire at the end of March, he said. The second request—which would follow the extension—should be a three-year renewal of DSRIP from April 2021 to March 2024.

Though the state also proposes a one-year extension and a three-year renewal, Somos' proposal would enable the state and participating organizations to pace themselves, Rivera said. It would allow for completing the easier of two complex parts first and then provide the state time to refine and negotiate its ask for DSRIP 2.0.

The waiver is already there; it ends in March 2021, Rivera noted.

"During that year [there will be] time to concentrate on refining the DSRIP 2.0 proposal with CMS," Rivera said. "It is our belief that we need to lock in our success and create a path forward that we can count on for the longer-term," he added.

Rivera said he agrees with the essence of the state's DSRIP 2.0 proposal, particularly its strong focus on addressing social determinants of health.

A spokeswoman for the state Department of Health said in a statement provided to *Crain's* that the department "will consider all comments made by stakeholders in public forums as we prepare the formal waiver submission to CMS."

Experts will discuss lessons learned from DSRIP and plans for the future at [Crain's health summit](#), Nov. 21.