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**State/Territory Name:** Pennsylvania

**State Plan Amendment (SPA) #:** PA-22-0001-CHIP

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850



**Children and Adults Health Programs Group**

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October 26, 2022

Nicole M. Harris  
Acting Executive Director, Children's Health Insurance Program  
Office of Medical Assistance Programs  
Pennsylvania Department of Human Services  
625 Forster Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Ms. Harris:

Your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendment (SPA) number PA-22-0001-CHIP, submitted on April 18, 2022, and additional information received on September 29, 2022, has been approved. Through this SPA, Pennsylvania provides 12 months of continuous postpartum coverage to individuals enrolled in its separate CHIP, pursuant to section 9822 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). This SPA has an effective date of April 1, 2022 and extends through March 31, 2027, and is a companion to the Medicaid continuous postpartum coverage SPA, PA-22-0016.

Section 9822 of the ARP added section 2107(e)(1)(J) to the Social Security Act, which requires states to provide continuous eligibility throughout an individual's pregnancy and 12-month postpartum period in CHIP if the state has elected this option in Medicaid. In Pennsylvania, this provision applies to targeted low-income children who are pregnant.

In addition, the state will phase out all state-specific exceptions to the continuous eligibility period for children by no later than April 1, 2023 to be consistent with CHIP regulations at 42 CFR 457.342.

Your Project Officer is Ticia Jones. She is available to answer your questions and other CHIP-related matters. Her contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop: S2-01-16  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
Telephone: (410) 786-8145  
E-mail: [Ticia.Jones@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Ticia.Jones@cms.hhs.gov)

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If you have additional questions, please contact Meg Barry, Director, Division of State Coverage Programs, at (443) 934-2064. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,  
/Signed by Sarah deLone/

Sarah deLone  
Director



# CHIP Eligibility

State Name:

OMB Control Number: 0938-1148

Transmittal Number: 03 - 30 - 2022

## Separate Child Health Insurance Program General Eligibility - Continuous Eligibility

CS27

2105(a)(4)(A) of the SSA and 42 CFR 457.342 and 435.926; 2107(e)(1)(J) and 1902(e)(16) of the SSA

### Mandatory 12-Month Postpartum Continuous Eligibility in CHIP for States Electing This Option in Medicaid

At state option in Medicaid, states may elect to provide continuous eligibility for an individual's 12-month postpartum period consistent with section 1902(e)(16) of the SSA. If elected under Medicaid, states are required to provide the same continuous eligibility and extended postpartum period for pregnant individuals in its separate CHIP. A separate CHIP cannot implement this option if not also elected under the Medicaid state plan.

State elected the Medicaid option to provide continuous eligibility through the 12-month postpartum period

The 12-month postpartum continuous eligibility applies for the period beginning on the effective date of this SPA (no earlier than April 1, 2022) and is available through March 31, 2027.

The state assures the extended postpartum period available to pregnant targeted low-income children or targeted low-income pregnant women under section 2107(e)(1)(J) of the SSA is provided consistent with the following provisions:

Individuals who, while pregnant, were eligible and received services under the state child health plan or waiver shall remain eligible throughout the duration of the pregnancy (including any period of retroactive eligibility) and the 12-month postpartum period, beginning on the day the pregnancy ends and ending on the last day of the 12th month consistent with paragraphs (5) and (16) of section 1902(e) of the SSA

Continuous eligibility is provided to targeted low income children who are pregnant or targeted low-income pregnant women (if applicable) who are eligible for and enrolled under the state child health plan through the end of the 12-month postpartum period who would otherwise lose eligibility because of a change in circumstances, unless:

- The individual or representative requests voluntary disenrollment.
- The individual is no longer a resident of the state.
- The Agency determines that eligibility was erroneously granted at the most recent determination or renewal of eligibility because of Agency error or fraud, abuse, or perjury attributed to the individual.
- The individual dies.

Unlike continuous eligibility for children, states providing the 12-month postpartum period may not end an individual's continuous eligibility due to non-payment of premiums or becoming eligible for Medicaid.

Consistent with section 2107(e)(1)(J) of the SSA, the state assures that continuous eligibility is provided through an individual's pregnancy and 12-month postpartum period regardless of non-payment of premiums, or an individual becoming eligible for Medicaid.

Benefits provided during the 12-month postpartum period must be the same scope of comprehensive services consistent with the benefit package elected by the state under section 2103(a) of the SSA that is available to targeted low income children and/or targeted low-income pregnant women and may include additional benefits as described in Section 6 of the CHIP state plan.



# CHIP Eligibility

## Optional Continuous Eligibility for Children

The CHIP Agency may provide that children who have been determined eligible under the state plan shall remain eligible, regardless of any changes in the family's circumstances, during a continuous eligibility period up to 12 months, or until the time the child reaches an age specified by the state (not to exceed age 19), whichever is earlier.

The CHIP Agency elects to provide continuous eligibility to children under this provision.

For children up to age 19

For children up to age

The continuous eligibility period begins on the effective date of the child's most recent determination or redetermination of eligibility, and ends:

At the end of the  months continuous eligibility period.

The state assures that a child's eligibility is not terminated during a continuous eligibility period, regardless of any changes in circumstances, unless:

The child attains the age specified by the state Agency or age 19.

The child or child's representative requests voluntary disenrollment.

The child is no longer a resident of the state.

The Agency determines that eligibility was erroneously granted at the most recent determination or renewal of eligibility because of Agency error or fraud, abuse, or perjury attributed to child or child's representative.

The child dies.

The child becomes eligible for Medicaid

There is a failure to pay required premiums or enrollment fees on behalf of a child, as provided for in the state plan.

### PRA Disclosure Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-1148. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 50 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

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