



CMCS Informational Bulletin

DATE: July 5, 2013

FROM: Cindy Mann, Director
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SUBJECT: **Release of Eligibility Final Rule and CHIPRA Outreach Grants**

Final Eligibility Rule

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing a final rule entitled “Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Programs: Essential Health Benefits in Alternative Benefit Plans, Eligibility Notices, Fair Hearing and Appeal Processes, and Premiums and Cost Sharing; Exchanges: Eligibility and Enrollment (CMS-2334-F)”

This final rule provides further guidance to assist states with implementing the Affordable Care Act’s plan for achieving a simple, streamlined system of affordable health coverage for nearly all Americans. It addresses aspects of the Medicaid, CHIP and Marketplace eligibility notices and appeals processes; provides additional flexibility regarding benefits and cost sharing for state Medicaid programs; codifies several eligibility and enrollment provisions included in the Affordable Care Act and the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) and provides operational guidance to help states implement their Health Insurance Marketplaces.

This final rule does not address all of the proposed regulatory changes included in the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) released on January 22, 2013. In order to best assist states in preparation for the availability of new coverage beginning January 1, 2014, this rule focuses on those provisions that are most critical for implementation. CMS intends to address the remaining provisions of the January NPRM in future rulemaking.

The final rule can be found online at the Federal Register’s website:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>

For more information on this rule, please visit: http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp

CHIPRA Outreach Grants

Earlier this week, CMS awarded nearly \$32 million in grants for efforts to identify and enroll children eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The *Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment Grants* were awarded to 41 state agencies, community health centers, school-based organizations and non-profit groups in 22 states; two grantees are multistate organizations.

Grants were made in five focus areas:

1. **Engaging schools** in outreach, enrollment and retention activities (9 awards);
2. **Reducing health coverage disparities** by reaching out to subgroups of children that are less likely to have health coverage (8 awards);
3. **Streamlining enrollment** for individuals participating in other public benefit programs such as nutritional or other assistance programs (3 awards);
4. **Improving application assistance** resources to provide high quality, reliable Medicaid and CHIP enrollment and renewal services in local communities (13 awards); and
5. **Training communities** to help families understand the new application and enrollment system and to deliver effective assistance to families with children eligible for Medicaid or CHIP (8 awards).

These awards are part of the \$140 million included in the Affordable Care Act and the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009 for enrollment and renewal outreach.

Grant award summaries are available online at:

<http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/CKCCycleIIIGrantAwards.pdf>

Additional information, including a press release and fact sheet, is available at:

<http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/index.html>