

Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification

June 15, 2011

Donald E. Williamson, M.D.
State Health Officer
State of Alabama Department of Public Health
The RSA Tower
201 Monroe Street
Montgomery, AL 36130-3017

Dear Dr. Williamson:

Your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State plan amendment (SPA) number 11, submitted on June 8, 2011, has been approved. This SPA provides temporary adjustments to the State's enrollment and redetermination policies, and cost sharing requirements for families impacted by disaster events. Through this SPA, the State can provide families with additional time to complete the renewal process, and has the flexibility to waive outstanding premium balances for families living and or working in FEMA or Governor declared disaster counties. This amendment, as it applies to the April 2011 tornadoes, has a retroactive effective date of April 15, 2011, and a duration of 6 months.

In the event of a future natural disaster, this SPA provides Alabama with the authority to implement the aforementioned temporary policy adjustments by notifying CMS of its intent, the effective date and duration of the provision, and a list of the FEMA or Governor declared disaster areas that are applicable. Although the State must provide notice to CMS, this is less administratively burdensome than repeating the SPA process during times of disaster recovery.

Your title XXI project officer is Ms. Amy Lutzky. She is available to answer questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related issues. Ms. Lutzky's contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification
Mail Stop S2-01-16
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Telephone: (410) 786-0721
Facsimile: (410) 786-5943
E-mail: Amy.lutzky@cms.hhs.gov

Official communications regarding program matters should be sent simultaneously to Ms. Lutzky and to Ms. Jackie Glaze, Associate Regional Administrator in our Atlanta Regional Office. Ms. Glaze's address is:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 4T20
Atlanta, GA 30303-8909

If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Wachino, Director, Family and Children's Health Programs Group at (410) 786-5647.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

/s/

Cindy Mann
Director

cc: Jackie Glaze, ARA, CMS Region IV