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State/Territory Name: Georgia

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: GA-23-0034 and GA-23-0035

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

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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

November 21, 2023

Stefanie Ashlaw
Director, Peach Care for Kids
State of Georgia, Department of Community Health
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 37th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Stefanie Ashlaw:

Your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendments (SPAs) GA-23-0034 and GA-23-0035, submitted on November 3, 2023, have been approved. These SPAs have an effective date of January 1, 2024, and are companions to the Medicaid lawfully residing coverage SPA, GA-23-0002-VLP.

Through these SPAs, Georgia expands coverage to otherwise eligible lawfully residing, noncitizen targeted low-income children under section 214 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009.

A copy of the approved CS18 state plan page is attached to be incorporated into the state's approved CHIP state plan. This page supersedes the previous CS18 that was approved on February 6, 2014.

Your Project Officer is Joshua Bougie. He is available to answer your questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related matters. His 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) 786-8117
E-mail: joshua.bougie@cms.hhs.gov

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

State of Georgia State Plan Amendment number: GA-2023-0035

This State Plan Amendment will update the following sections:

1.4 Provide the effective (date costs begin to be incurred) and implementation (date services begin to be provided) dates for this SPA (42 CFR 457.65). A SPA may only have one effective date, but provisions within the SPA may have different implementation dates that must be after the effective date.

SPA number: GA-2023-0035

Purpose of SPA: Provide coverage for lawfully residing children under the age of 19.

Proposed effective date: 01/01/2024

Proposed implementation date: 01/01/2024

1.4-TC Tribal Consultation. (Section 2107(e)(1)(C)) Describe the consultation process that occurred specifically for the development and submission of this State Plan Amendment, when it occurred and who was involved.

The State of Georgia has no recognized Tribes and therefore no Tribal Consultation is necessary.

Guidance: States have the option to cover groups of “lawfully residing” children and/or pregnant women. States may elect to cover (1) “lawfully residing” children described at section 2107(e)(1)(J) of the Act; (2) “lawfully residing” pregnant women described at section 2107(e)(1)(J) of the Act; or (3) both. A state electing to cover children and/or pregnant women who are considered lawfully residing in the U.S. must offer coverage to all such individuals who meet the definition of lawfully residing, and may not cover a subgroup or only certain groups. In addition, states may not cover these new groups only in CHIP, but must also extend the coverage option to Medicaid. States will need to update their budget to reflect the additional costs for coverage of these children. If a State has been covering these children with State only funds, it is helpful to indicate that so CMS understands the basis for the enrollment estimates and the projected cost of providing coverage. Please remember to update section 9.10 when electing this option.

4.1- LR Lawfully Residing Option (Sections 2107(e)(1)(J) and 1903(v)(4)(A); (CHIPRA # 17, SHO # 10-006 issued July 1, 2010) Check if the State is electing the option under section 214 of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) regarding lawfully residing to provide coverage to the following otherwise eligible pregnant women and children as specified below who are lawfully residing in the United States including the following:

A child or pregnant woman shall be considered lawfully present if he or she is:

- (1) A qualified alien as defined in section 431 of PRWORA (8 U.S.C. §1641);
- (2) An alien in nonimmigrant status who has not violated the terms of the status under which he or she was admitted or to which he or she has changed after admission;

(3) An alien who has been paroled into the United States pursuant to section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 U.S.C. §1182(d)(5)) for less than 1 year, except for an alien paroled for prosecution, for deferred inspection or pending removal proceedings;

(4) An alien who belongs to one of the following classes:

(i) Aliens currently in temporary resident status pursuant to section 210 or 245A of the INA (8 U.S.C. §§1160 or 1255a, respectively);

(ii) Aliens currently under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) pursuant to section 244 of the INA (8 U.S.C. §1254a), and pending applicants for TPS who have been granted employment authorization;

(iii) Aliens who have been granted employment authorization under 8 CFR 274a.12(c)(9), (10), (16), (18), (20), (22), or (24);

(iv) Family Unity beneficiaries pursuant to section 301 of Pub. L. 101-649, as amended;

(v) Aliens currently under Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) pursuant to a decision made by the President;

(vi) Aliens currently in deferred action status; or

(vii) Aliens whose visa petition has been approved and who have a pending application for adjustment of status;

(5) A pending applicant for asylum under section 208(a) of the INA (8 U.S.C. § 1158) or for withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) of the INA (8 U.S.C. § 1231) or under the Convention Against Torture who has been granted employment authorization, and such an applicant under the age of 14 who has had an application pending for at least 180 days;

(6) An alien who has been granted withholding of removal under the Convention Against Torture;

(7) A child who has a pending application for Special Immigrant Juvenile status as described in section 101(a)(27)(J) of the INA (8 U.S.C. §1101(a)(27)(J));

(8) An alien who is lawfully present in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under 48 U.S.C. § 1806(e); or

(9) An alien who is lawfully present in American Samoa under the immigration laws of American Samoa.

Elected for pregnant women.

Elected for children under age 19

4.1.1-LR The State provides assurance that for an individual whom it enrolls in

Medicaid under the CHIPRA Lawfully Residing option, it has verified, at the time of the individual's initial eligibility determination and at the time of the eligibility redetermination, that the individual continues

to be lawfully residing in the United States. The State must first attempt to verify this status using information provided at the time of initial application. If the State cannot do so from the information readily available, it must require the individual to provide documentation or further evidence to verify satisfactory immigration status in the same manner as it would for anyone else claiming satisfactory immigration status under section 1137(d) of the Act.

Section 9.10- Estimated impact on Budget:

	Year 1 Estimate
Total Estimated Expenditures	\$219,331
Total Federal Fund Expenditures G*FMAP	\$144,802
Total State General Fund Expenditures G-H	\$74,529



CHIP Eligibility

State Name:

OMB Control Number: 0938-1148

Transmittal Number: GA - 23 - 0034

Separate Child Health Insurance Program Non-Financial Eligibility - Citizenship

CS18

Sections 2105(c)(9) and 2107(e)(1)(J) of the SSA and 42 CFR 457.320(b)(6), (c) and (d)

Citizenship

The CHIP Agency provides CHIP eligibility to otherwise eligible citizens and nationals of the United States and certain non-citizens, including the time period during which they are provided with reasonable opportunity to submit verification of their citizenship, national status or satisfactory immigration status.

The CHIP Agency provides eligibility under the Plan to otherwise eligible individuals:

Who are citizens or nationals of the United States; or

Who are qualified non-citizens as defined in section 431 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) (8 U.S.C. §1641), or whose eligibility is required by section 402(b) of PRWORA (8 U.S.C. §1612(b)) and is not prohibited by section 403 of PRWORA (8 U.S.C. §1613); or

Who have declared themselves to be citizens or nationals of the United States, or an individual having satisfactory immigration status, during a reasonable opportunity period pending verification of their citizenship, nationality, or satisfactory immigration status consistent with requirements of 1903(x), 1137(d), and 1902(ee) of the Act, and 42 CFR 435.406, 407, 956 and 457.380.

The reasonable opportunity period begins on and extends 90 days from the date the notice of reasonable opportunity is received by the individual.

The agency provides for an extension of the reasonable opportunity period if the individual is making a good faith effort to resolve any inconsistencies or obtain any necessary documentation, or the agency needs more time to complete the verification process.

The agency begins to furnish benefits to otherwise eligible individuals during the reasonable opportunity period on a date earlier than the date the notice is received by the individual.

The date benefits are furnished is:

- The date of application containing the declaration of citizenship or immigration status.
- The date the reasonable opportunity notice is sent.
- Other date, as described:

The CHIP Agency elects the option to provide CHIP coverage to otherwise eligible children up to age 19, lawfully residing in the United States, as provided in Section 2107(e)(1)(J) of the SSA (Section 214 of CHIPRA 2009, P.L. 111-3).

Otherwise eligible children means children meeting the eligibility requirements of targeted low-income children with the exception of non-citizen status.



CHIP Eligibility

- The CHIP Agency provides assurance that lawfully residing children are also covered under the state's Medicaid program.

The CHIP Agency elects the option to provide CHIP coverage to otherwise eligible pregnant women, lawfully residing in the United States, as provided in Section 214 of CHIPRA 2009, P.L. 111-3. The state may not select this option unless the state also elects to cover lawfully residing children. A state may not select this option unless the state also covers Targeted Low-Income Pregnant Women.

No

- An individual is considered to be lawfully residing in the United States if he or she is lawfully present and meets state residency requirements.
- An individual is considered to be lawfully present in the United States if he or she is:
1. A qualified non-citizen as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1641(b) and (c);
 2. A non-citizen in a valid nonimmigrant status, as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15) or otherwise under the immigration laws (as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17));
 3. A non-citizen who has been paroled into the United States in accordance with 8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5) for less than 1 year, except for an individual paroled for prosecution, for deferred inspection or pending removal proceedings;
 4. A non-citizen who belongs to one of the following classes:
 - (i) Granted temporary resident status in accordance with 8 U.S.C. 1160 or 1255a, respectively;
 - (ii) Granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in accordance with 8 U.S.C. §1254a, and individuals with pending applications for TPS who have been granted employment authorization;
 - (iii) Granted employment authorization under 8 CFR 274a.12(c);
 - (iv) Family Unity beneficiaries in accordance with section 301 of Pub. L. 101-649, as amended;
 - (v) Under Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) in accordance with a decision made by the President;
 - (vi) Granted Deferred Action status;
 - (vii) Granted an administrative stay of removal under 8 CFR 241;
 - (viii) Beneficiary of approved visa petition who has a pending application for adjustment of status;
 5. Is an individual with a pending application for asylum under 8 U.S.C. 1158, or for withholding of removal under 8 U.S.C. 1231, or under the Convention Against Torture, who:
 - (i) Has been granted employment authorization; or
 - (ii) Is under the age of 14 and has had an application pending for at least 180 days;
 6. Has been granted withholding of removal under the Convention Against Torture;
 7. Is a child who has a pending application for Special Immigrant Juvenile status as described in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J);
 8. Is lawfully present in American Samoa under the immigration laws of American Samoa; or
 9. Is a victim of severe trafficking in persons, in accordance with the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-386, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)).



CHIP Eligibility

10. Exception: An individual with deferred action under the Department of Homeland Security's deferred action for the childhood arrivals process, as described in the Secretary of Homeland Security's June 15, 2012 memorandum, shall not be considered to be lawfully present with respect to any of the above categories in paragraphs (1) through (9) of this definition.

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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