

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Medicaid and State Operations

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Dear State Legislator:

We are pleased to share with you a new resource guide on Medicaid eligibility policy, an area of particular relevance for states providing coverage for children through Medicaid expansions as well as states with separate child health programs who are working with Medicaid on coordinated simplification. The guide, entitled "Continuing the Progress: Enrolling and Retaining Low-Income Families and Children in Health Care Coverage," is enclosed for your use.

The "Continuing the Progress" guide was developed after the Department of Health and Human Services conducted reviews of state Medicaid eligibility policies and application procedures in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Territories. In conducting these reviews and working closely with states to analyze the findings, the Department found a number of innovative practices that seemed useful to share to help states simplify their processes and make the Medicaid program more accessible to eligible families. The Department also found that there were misconceptions about what Federal law requires and allows.

This guide is intended to assist state officials, policy-makers, and others interested in promoting coverage among low-income families and simplifying Medicaid procedures by:

- Specifying the minimum Federal eligibility requirements;
- Providing guidance on the array of options available to states to streamline application and eligibility processes;
- Clarifying issues related to the de-linking of Medicaid and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program; and
- Outlining the flexibility states have to simplify their eligibility rules and/or expand coverage of low-income families and children.

Additionally, the guide includes state-by-state information about current application and enrollment processes for children in Medicaid and separate child health programs. This information was obtained in partnership with states and the National Governors' Association.

We hope that the "Continuing the Progress" guide will assist you in your efforts to ensure that eligible low-income families and children have access to health insurance benefits. If you would like additional copies, they may be downloaded from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website at www.cms.gov/medicaid/wrefhmpg.htm.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
Dennis G. Smith
Director
Center for Medicaid and State Operations

[Redacted Signature]
Garnet Coleman
Texas House of Representatives
Executive Committee
National Conference of State Legislatures

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