



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of the Secretary

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY**

April 6, 2020

Bill Brooks  
Associate Regional Administrator  
Division of Medicaid & Children's Health  
DHHS/Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
1301 Young Street, Room #833  
Dallas, Texas 75202

**RE: Louisiana Title XXI State Plan  
CHIP Disaster Eligibility and Enrollment – Coronavirus Disease 2019**

Dear Mr. Brooks:

Effective March 1, 2020, as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Louisiana is invoking implementation of the waivers of its eligibility and enrollment policies for application and redetermination, cost sharing and prior authorization requirements outlined in Louisiana's CHIP Disaster Eligibility and Enrollment State Plan Amendment (SPA) 19-0022. The SPA was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on August 15, 2019.

The State invokes the provisions for implementing temporary adjustments to eligibility and enrollment for all parishes in the state of Louisiana for the duration of the public health emergency as follows:

- 4.3 Describe the methods of establishing eligibility and continuing enrollment. (Section 2102)(b)(2)) (42CFR 457.350)  
The methods of establishing eligibility and continuing enrollment will be the same as under Title XIX except for citizenship.

In the event of a FEMA or governor-declared disaster and at the State's discretion, enrollees may be granted eligibility and receive services beyond their certification period.

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In the event of a FEMA or governor-declared disaster and at the State's discretion, enrollees may be provided additional time to submit a renewal or verification.

In the event of a FEMA or governor-declared disaster and at the State's discretion, eligibility verification requirements may be waived at application and renewal. The State may allow self-attestation to complete the eligibility determination, in accordance with 42 CFR 457.380.

- 6.2 The State elects to provide the following forms of coverage to children: (Check all that apply. If an item is checked, describe the coverage with respect to the amount, duration and scope of services covered, as well as any exclusions or limitations) (Section 2110(a)) (42 CFR 457.490)

The State may waive prior authorization requirements by extending current prior authorizations for services for children in families living in FEMA or governor-declared disaster areas at the time of the disaster event.

- 7.2.4 Decisions related to the prior authorization of health services are completed within 14 days after the receipt of a request for services, in accordance with Title XIX for unborn children covered in LaCHIP Phase IV.

The State may waive the prior authorization requirements for services for children in families living in FEMA or governor-declared disaster areas at the time of the disaster event.

- 8.2.1. Premiums:  
\$50 per month per family where family income is from 201 up to and including, 250 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL)

In the event of a FEMA or governor-declared disaster and at the State's discretion, the State may delay collection of premiums at initial application or renewal for families living in FEMA or governor-declared disaster areas at the time of a disaster event. If the State elects to delay collection of premiums, eligible individuals will be enrolled prior to payment of the premium.

In response to COVID-19, the State will also submit a SPA to:

1. Modify the tribal consultation process by shortening the number of days before submission of the SPA and/or conducting consultation after submission of the SPA;
2. Provide for an extension of the reasonable opportunity period for non-citizens declaring to be in a satisfactory immigration status, if the non-citizen is making a good faith effort to resolve any inconsistencies or obtain any necessary documentation, or

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the agency is unable to complete the verification process within the 90-day reasonable opportunity period; and

3. Provide temporary suspension of the premium lock-out period regardless of whether the family has paid their outstanding premium for existing beneficiaries who reside and/or work in a state or federally declared disaster or public health emergency area.

Your approval of this request is appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Barnes at 225-342-3881 or via email at [Karen.Barnes@la.gov](mailto:Karen.Barnes@la.gov).

Warmly,

 Cindy Rives, for

Stephen R. Russo, JD  
Interim Secretary

SRR:EC:MVJ