H-3020   Children Under Age 19 Group-CHAMP

H-3021   GENERAL INFORMATION

As a result of the Sixth Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (SOBRA), Louisiana implemented the Child Health and Maternity Program (CHAMP) in January 1989, to provide Medicaid benefits to pregnant women and children under age 19 who meet income and non-financial eligibility criteria.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, referred to as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), combined all mandatory and optional eligibility groups for individuals under age 19 into one coverage group. This group includes those children covered under CHAMP.

Eligibility for applicants/beneficiaries in the children's group is determined by using Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology.

ACA expanded mandatory coverage to all children under age 19 with household MAGI-based income at or below 147 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (142 percent FPL, plus 5 percent disregard). Such children are considered CHAMP children.

There is no resource eligibility requirement for CHAMP children.

> **Note:**
> CHAMP children include those previously ineligible children, ages 6-18 years old, with other health insurance. CHAMP children in this age group, with income between 108 percent and 147 percent FPL, who do not have other health insurance, should be certified in LaCHIP Category/Type Case 03-07. The state is allowed to collect enhanced funding for this group.

H-3022   ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

Determine eligibility by applying the following criteria as outlined. The elements have been listed in the most logical order, but work on all steps simultaneously.

H-3022.1   Determine Assistance Unit

The assistance unit consists of the child(ren) under age 19 for whom assistance is requested.

H-3022.2   Establish Categorical Requirement

Each child must be under age 19.

> **Note:**
> If a child under age 19 is eligible for both CHAMP and the PW program, enroll the child in CHAMP.

H-3022.3   Establish Non-Financial Eligibility

Verify eligibility for each member of the assistance/benefit unit with regard to the following factors:

- Assignment of Third Party Rights   I-200

- Citizenship/Alien Status   I-300

- Enumeration   I-600

- Residence   I-1900

Evaluate the need for Support Enforcement Services (SES) referral. Refer to I-2000 Support Enforcement Services.

H-3022.4   Establish Need

Household composition and countable income for CHAMP children is based on MAGI income standards. Refer to I-1550 MAGI Determinations.

> **Exception:**
> When determining Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women under age 19, all income is disregarded.

Compare MAGI-based income to the CHAMP child income standard. Refer to Z-200 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

> **Note:**
> In determining family size for the eligibility determination of a pregnant woman, she is counted as herself, plus each of the children she is expected to deliver. Do not include the unborn(s) in the family size for eligibility determinations of other household members.

H-3022.5   Eligibility Decision

Evaluate all eligibility requirements and verifications received to make the eligibility decision.

H-3022.6   Certification Period

The certification period may be effective no earlier than three (3) months prior to the application date, provided the individual is otherwise eligible. The months of retroactive coverage are not included in the twelve (12) month certification period. The twelve (12) month certification period begins with the month of application.

Retroactive medical eligibility shall be explored for the three (3) months prior to the month of application. Refer to H-1800 Retroactive Medical Eligibility.

H-3022.7   Notice of Decision

Send the appropriate notice of decision to the applicant/recipient.

> **Reminder:**
> BHSF Flyer WIC shall be provided to recipients who did not receive information about the special supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) at application.