

NOTICE OF INTENT

**Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing**

**Medicaid Eligibility
Twelve-Month Continuous Eligibility
(LAC 50:III.2525)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 50:III.2525 in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This proposed Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend the provisions governing eligibility for the Medical Assistance Program in order to align the exclusions to the 12-month continuous eligibility coverage period for children in the administrative Rule with the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plans approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Title 50

**PUBLIC HEALTH-GENERAL
Part III. Eligibility
Subpart 3. Eligibility Groups and Factors**

Chapter 25. Eligibility Factors

§2525. Twelve-Month Continuous Eligibility

A. - B. ...

C. A child's eligibility may not be terminated during a continuous eligibility period, regardless of any changes in circumstances, unless the child meets an exception set forth in 42 CFR 435.926(d) or 42 CFR 457.342.

1 - 6. Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 34:253 (February 2008), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 47:737 (June 2021), LR 49:

Implementation of the provisions of this Rule may be contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if it is determined that submission to CMS for review and approval is required.

Family Impact Statement

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed Rule on the family has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on family functioning, stability and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

Poverty Impact Statement

In compliance with Act 854 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the poverty impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973.

Small Business Analysis

In compliance with the Small Business Protection Act, the economic impact of this proposed Rule on small businesses has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on small businesses.

Provider Impact Statement

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the provider impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service, no direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, and will have no impact on the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments to Tara A. LeBlanc, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Ms. LeBlanc is responsible for

responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is at 4:30 p.m. on June 29, 2023.

Public Hearing

Interested persons may submit a written request to conduct a public hearing by U.S. mail to the Office of the Secretary ATTN: LDH Rulemaking Coordinator, Post Office Box 629, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0629; however, such request must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on June 9, 2023. If the criteria set forth in R.S. 49:961(B)(1) are satisfied, LDH will conduct a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. on June 29, 2023 in Room 173 of the Bienville Building, which is located at 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. To confirm whether or not a public hearing will be held, interested persons should first call Allen Enger at (225) 342-1342 after June 9, 2023. If a public hearing is to be held, all interested persons are invited to attend and present data, views, comments, or arguments, orally or in writing.

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips

Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Person Preparing Statement: Veronica Dent Dept.: Health
Phone: 225-342-3238 Office: Bureau of Health Services Financing
Return Address: P. O. Box 91030 Rule: Medicaid Eligibility
Baton Rouge, LA Title: Twelve-Month Continuous Eligibility
Date Rule Takes Effect: August 20, 2023

SUMMARY
(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 961 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will have no programmatic fiscal impact to the state other than the cost of promulgation for FY 22-23. It is anticipated that \$432 (\$216 SGF and \$216 FED) will be expended in FY 22-23 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed rule will have no effect on revenue collections other than the federal share of the promulgation costs for FY 22-23. It is anticipated that \$216 will be collected in FY 22-23 for the federal share of the expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

This proposed rule amends the provisions governing eligibility for the Medical Assistance Program in order to align the exclusions to the 12-month continuous eligibility coverage period for children in the administrative rule with the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plans approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The administrative rule currently includes exclusion categories that were submitted to CMS for approval in a State Plan amendment that was ultimately withdrawn after it was determined that the provisions did not align with the continuous eligibility federal regulations. This proposed rule removes the list of exceptions withdrawn from CMS consideration from the *Louisiana Administrative Code* (LAC). Implementation of this proposed rule is not anticipated to result in costs or benefits to providers or small businesses and will not result in a fiscal impact in FY 22-23, FY 23-24, and FY 24-25, since this is a technical revision to ensure that the language in the LAC does not conflict with federal regulations and the CMS-approved Medicaid and CHIP State Plans.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.

Tara A. LeBlanc
Signature of Agency Head or Designee

Tara A. LeBlanc, Medicaid Executive Director
Typed Name & Title of Agency Head or Designee

Date of Signature

Evan Brossard, Interim Deputy
Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee
*Evan Brossard, Interim Deputy
Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee*
Fiscal Officer

5/9/23
Date of Signature

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

The following information is required in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberation on the proposed rule.

A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption, or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

This proposed rule amends the provisions governing eligibility for the Medical Assistance Program in order to align the exclusions to the 12-month continuous eligibility coverage period for children in the administrative rule with the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plans approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

B. Summarize the circumstances, which require this action. If the Action is required by federal regulation, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend the provisions governing eligibility for the Medical Assistance Program in order to align the exclusions to the 12-month continuous eligibility coverage period for children in the administrative rule with the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plans approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

C. Compliance with Act 11 of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session

(1) Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

No. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will have no programmatic fiscal impact to the state other than the cost of promulgation for FY 22-23. In FY 22-23, \$432 is included for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

(2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

(a) _____ Yes. If yes, attach documentation.

(b) _____ NO. If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
WORKSHEET**

I. A. COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED

1. What is the anticipated increase (decrease) in costs to implement the proposed action?

COSTS	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
Personal Services			
Operating Expenses	\$432	\$0	\$0
Professional Services			
Other Charges			
Equipment			
Major Repairs & Constr.			
TOTAL	\$432	\$0	\$0
POSITIONS (#)			

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A. 1.", including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

In FY 22-23, \$432 will be spent for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and final rule.

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

SOURCE	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
State General Fund	\$216	\$0	\$0
Agency Self-Generated			
Dedicated			
Federal Funds	\$216	\$0	\$0
Other (Specify)			
TOTAL	\$432	\$0	\$0

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

Yes, sufficient funds are available to implement this rule.

B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustments in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

This proposed rule has no known impact on local government units.

2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit, which will be affected by these costs or savings.

There is no known impact on the sources of local governmental unit funding

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
WORKSHEET

II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

A. What increase (decrease) in revenues can be anticipated from the proposed action?

REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
State General Fund			
Agency Self-Generated			
Dedicated Funds*			
Federal Funds	\$216	\$0	\$0
Local Funds			
TOTAL	\$216	\$0	\$0

*Specify the particular fund being impacted.

B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenues shown in "A." Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

In FY 22-23, \$216 will be collected for the federal share of the administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
WORKSHEET**

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

A. What persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effect on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.), they may have to incur as a result of the proposed action.

This proposed rule amends the provisions governing eligibility for the Medical Assistance Program in order to align the exclusions to the 12-month continuous eligibility coverage period for children in the administrative rule with the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plans approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The administrative rule currently includes exclusion categories that were submitted to CMS for approval in a State Plan amendment that was ultimately withdrawn after it was determined that the provisions did not align with the continuous eligibility federal regulations. This proposed rule removes the list of exceptions withdrawn from CMS consideration from the *Louisiana Administrative Code* (LAC).

B. Also provide an estimate and a narrative description of any impact on receipts and/or income resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

Implementation of this proposed rule is not anticipated to result in costs or benefits to providers or small businesses and will not result in a fiscal impact in FY 22-23, FY 23-24, and FY 24-25, since this is a technical revision to ensure that the language in the LAC does not conflict with federal regulations and the CMS-approved Medicaid and CHIP State Plans.

IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.