



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of the Secretary

December 8, 2025

Via Statutorily Prescribed Email

To: The Honorable Patrick McMath, Chairman, Senate Health & Welfare Committee
The Honorable Dustin Miller, Chairman, House Health & Welfare Committee

From: Bruce D. Greenstein
Secretary

Re: Second Report to Proposed Amendments to LAC 50:III.505 – Medicaid Eligibility
– Federally-Facilitated Marketplace Determinations

Pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, the Louisiana Department of Health, submits its second report regarding Medicaid Eligibility – Federally-Facilitated Marketplace Determinations, LAC 50:III.505.

A Notice of Intent on the proposed amendments was published in the October 20, 2025 issue of the *Louisiana Register* (LR 51:1718). No written comments were received and there was no request for a public hearing during the notice period. Because there were no requests for a public hearing, one was not held for these proposed amendments. Additionally, no substantive changes were made to the proposed amendments since the report is provided for in R.S. 49:966(B)(C).

Unless otherwise directed, the Department anticipates adopting the October 20, 2025 Notice of Intent when it is published as a final rule in the January 20, 2026 issue of the *Louisiana Register*.

Please contact Marsha Baudoin, at Marsha.Baudoin@la.gov, if you have any questions or require additional information about this matter.

Cc: Kimberly Sullivan, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Medicaid, LDH
Tangela Womack, Medicaid Deputy Director, LDH
Christopher Chase, Medicaid Program Manager, LDH
Catherine Brindley, Medicaid Program Manager, LDH
Bethany Blackson, Director of External Affairs and Governmental Relations, LDH
Andrea Trantham, Editor, *Louisiana Administrative Code*, Office of the State Register

NOTICE OF INTENT
Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

Medicaid Eligibility
Federally-Facilitated Marketplace Determinations
(LAC 50:III.505)

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to repeal LAC 50:III.505 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 proposes to repeal LAC 50:III.505 to align with recent legislative changes enacted through Act 427 of the 2025 Regular Session. Act 427 prohibits the department from accepting Medicaid eligibility determinations made by a Federally-Facilitated Exchange, including the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §18041(c).

This repeal is necessary to eliminate provisions in the *Louisiana Administrative Code* that conflict with the requirements of Act 427 and to ensure regulatory consistency with state law.

The rule text below has been drafted utilizing plain language principles to ensure clarity and accessibility for all users. It has also been reviewed and tested for compliance with web accessibility standards.

Title 50
PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Part III. Eligibility
Chapter 5. Application Processing
§505. Federally-Facilitated Marketplace
Determinations

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, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 41:1489 (August 2015), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 42:1091 (July 2016), repealed LR 52:

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 Drew Maranto, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Mr. Maranto is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is November 19, 2025.

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 November 10, 2025. 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 November 25, 2025 in Room 118 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 November 10, 2025. 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.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
RULE TITLE: Medicaid Eligibility
Federally-Facilitated Marketplace Determinations**

**I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO
STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT 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 25-26. It is anticipated that \$432(\$216 SGF and \$216 FED) will be expended in FY 25-26 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

This repeal is necessary to eliminate provisions in the Louisiana Administrative Code that conflict with the requirements of Act 427 and to ensure regulatory consistency with state law. This proposed rule repeals provisions governing the use of the federally-facilitated marketplace to make eligibility determinations. It is anticipated that all individuals eligible through the federally-facilitated marketplace will continue to be eligible after this rule is repealed, and therefore there should be no impact to the Medicaid program.

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

It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will have no impact on federal revenue collections for FY 25-26. It is anticipated that \$432 will be collected in FY 25-26 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
NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)**

This repeal is necessary to eliminate provisions in the Louisiana Administrative Code that conflict with the requirements of Act 427 and to ensure regulatory consistency with state law. This proposed rule repeals provisions governing the use of the federally-facilitated marketplace to make eligibility determinations. It is anticipated that all individuals eligible through the federally-facilitated marketplace will continue to be eligible after this rule is repealed. This proposed rule is expected to have no fiscal impact to small businesses or providers in FY 26, FY 27, or FY 28.

**IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT
(Summary)**

This proposed rule has no known effect on competition and employment.

Drew Maranto
Interim Medicaid Executive Director
2510#055

Alan M. Boxberger
Legislative Fiscal Officer
Legislative Fiscal Office



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of the Secretary

November 25, 2025

Via Statutorily Prescribed Email

To: The Honorable Patrick McMath, Chairman, Senate Health & Welfare Committee
The Honorable Dustin Miller, Chairman, House Health & Welfare Committee

From: Bruce D. Greenstein
Secretary

Re: Second Report to Proposed Amendments to LAC 50:IX.Chapter 15 and Chapter 151 – Professional Services Program – Doula Services

Pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, the Louisiana Department of Health, submits its second report regarding Professional Services Program – Doula Services LAC 50:IX.Chapter 15 and Chapter 151

A Notice of Intent on the proposed amendments was published in the October 20, 2025 issue of the *Louisiana Register* (LR 51:1719). No written comments were received and there was no request for a public hearing during the notice period. Because there were no requests for a public hearing, one was not held for these proposed amendments. Additionally, no substantive changes were made to the proposed amendments since the report is provided for in R.S. 49:966(B)(C).

Unless otherwise directed, the Department anticipates adopting the October 20, 2025 Notice of Intent when it is published as a final rule in the January 20, 2025 issue of the *Louisiana Register*.

Please contact WaRene Kimball, at WaRene.Kimball@la.gov, if you have any questions or require additional information about this matter.

Cc: Seth Gold, Medicaid Director, LDH
Tangela Womack, Medicaid Deputy Director, LDH
Catherine Brindley, Medicaid Program Manager, LDH
Bethany Blackson, Director of External Affairs and Governmental Relations, LDH
Andrea Trantham, Editor, *Louisiana Administrative Code*, Office of the State Register

NOTICE OF INTENT
Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

Professional Services Program
Doula Services
(LAC 50:IX.Chapter 15 and Chapter 151)

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to adopt LAC 50:IX.Chapter 15 and Chapter 151 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 adopt provisions governing doula services in accordance with Act 228 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. This proposed Rule establishes coverage and reimbursement criteria for nonclinical maternal health services provided by registered doulas before, during, and after childbirth. The goal of this rulemaking action is to expand access to culturally responsive support for pregnant and postpartum individuals, enhance maternal health outcomes, and reduce disparities in birth experiences throughout Louisiana.

The rule text below has been drafted utilizing plain language principles to ensure clarity and accessibility for all users. It has also been reviewed and tested for compliance with web accessibility standards.

Title 50
PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Part IX. Professional Services Program
Subpart 1. General Provisions

Chapter 15. Doula Services

§1501. General Provisions

A. Effective for dates of service on or after [day of promulgation], the Medicaid Program shall provide reimbursement for maternal healthcare services before, during, and after childbirth provided by a registered doula in Louisiana.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254, R.S. 46:977.41-43 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 52:

§1503. Provider Qualifications

A. A qualified doula is an individual who:

1. has been trained to provide physical, emotional, and educational support to pregnant and birthing women and their families;
2. has approved registration with the Doula Registry Board; and
3. enrolled as a Louisiana Medicaid provider.

B. A qualified doula shall not provide medical or midwifery care.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254, R.S. 46:977.41-43 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 52:

§1505. Scope of Services

A. Covered doula services may include, but are not limited to:

1. assistance and attendance during labor and after childbirth, including cesarean deliveries;
2. prenatal and postpartum support and education;
3. breastfeeding assistance and lactation support;
4. parenting education; and
5. support for birthing women after the loss of a pregnancy.

B. Coverage limitations:

1. five prenatal visits for up to 90 minutes each; and
2. three postpartum visits for up to 90 minutes each.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254, R.S. 46:977.41-43 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 52:

Subpart 15. Reimbursement

Chapter 151. Reimbursement Methodology

Subchapter H: Doula Services

§15171. General Provisions

A. Reimbursement for doula services shall be made according to the established fee schedule or billed charges, whichever is the lesser amount.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254, R.S. 46:977.41-43 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 52:

§15173. Reimbursement Methodology

A. Effective for dates of service on or after [day of promulgation], reimbursement for doula services shall be a flat fee per service based on the appropriate current procedural terminology (CPT) code.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254, R.S. 46:977.41-43 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 52:

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 a positive impact on family functioning, stability and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972, since it provides access to continuous, non-clinical support during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. Doula services can reduce maternal stress, improve health outcomes, and promote a more stable transition into parenthood, which enhances the overall well-being of the family unit.

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 a positive impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973, since it provides access to continuous, non-clinical support during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, which will reduce the financial burden for families with limited income.

Small Business Impact Statement

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 may have a positive impact on small businesses, as described the Act, since it adds doula services as a covered service.

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, and may impact the total direct and indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service if their customer base expands, and may enhance the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170 because they will be receiving Medicaid reimbursement for services they provide.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments to Drew Maranto, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Mr. Maranto is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is November 19, 2025.

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 November 10, 2025. 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 November 25, 2025 in Room 118 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 November 10, 2025. 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.

Bruce D. Greenstein
Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

RULE TITLE: Professional Services Program Doula Services

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

It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will result in increased costs to the state of \$286,146 for FY 25-26 (six months), \$577,399 for FY 26-27, and \$583,173 for FY 27-28. It is anticipated that \$756 (\$378 SGF and \$378 FED) will be expended in FY 25-26 for the state's administrative expense for the promulgation of the proposed rule and the final rule.

The proposed rule adds coverage and reimbursement criteria for nonclinical maternal health services provided by registered doulas before, during, and after childbirth to the Medicaid program, in accordance with Act 228 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. These services are already provided as in-lieu-of services by managed care organizations (MCOs) and have been accounted for in the per-member per-month capitation calculations. According to LDH, it is anticipated that the additional costs will be offset through avoidance of other services. Increased costs associated with doula services were contemplated in the MCO rates used in the FY 26 budget and are included in the appropriated budget.

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

It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will result in an increase to federal revenue collections of approximately \$963,302 M for FY 25-26 (six months), \$1.9 M

FY 26-27, and \$2 M FY 27-28. It is anticipated \$378 will be collected in FY 25-26 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 NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The proposed rule adds Medicaid coverage and reimbursement criteria for nonclinical maternal health services provided by registered doulas before, during, and after childbirth, in accordance with Act 228 of the 2025 Regular Session. This will benefit pregnant and postpartum individuals in the Medicaid program by improving access to culturally responsive care, enhancing maternal health outcomes, and reducing disparities in birth experiences throughout Louisiana. It creates new opportunities for small businesses and independent providers by allowing them to participate in Medicaid as officially covered service providers. These services are already provided as in-lieu-of services by managed care organizations and have been accounted for in the per-member per-month capitation calculations. Costs associated with these services being transitioned to covered services are expected to be offset by the avoidance of other services. This proposed rule is expected to result in increased payments to providers of approximately \$1.2 M in FY 25-26 (six months), \$2.5 M in FY 26-27, and \$2.5 M in FY 27-28.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This proposed rule has no known effect on competition and employment.

Drew Maranto
Interim Medicaid Executive Director
2510#056

Alan M. Boxberger
Legislative Fiscal Officer
Legislative Fiscal Office