

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



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**Children and Adults Health Programs Group**

March 12, 2014

Ms. Ruth Kennedy  
Medicaid Director  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
P.O. Box 91030  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030

RE: Transmittal Number LA-14-0005 Request for Additional Information

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

Thank you for your State Plan Amendment (SPA) LA-14-0005 for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) group four, MAGI-Eligibility process, submitted on January 17, 2014. As you are aware, your SPA has been undergoing review by the Department of Health and Human Services. In order to proceed with the review of LA-14-0005, we find it necessary to seek additional or clarifying information. The area of concern is specified below.

Section 2101(a) of the Social Security Act describes the purpose of the CHIP statute "to initiate and expand the provision of child health assistance to uninsured, low-income children in an effective and efficient manner that is coordinated with other sources of health benefits coverage." In order to ensure that there is appropriate coordination between the Medicaid and CHIP programs, and that changes that intersect both programs are seamless to Medicaid and CHIP eligible families, CMS is unable to approve the CHIP SPA until the corresponding Medicaid SPA has been approved. Please notify us when you have received this approval from Medicaid and provide assurance that the modifications, if any, which apply to the companion Medicaid SPA will also apply to this CHIP SPA.

If you would like to arrange a call to discuss this notification, please let us know. We are eager to help you move forward to cover uninsured Louisiana children.

Under Section 2106(c) of the Act, CMS must approve, disapprove or request additional information on a proposed amendment to a title XXI state plan within 90 days. This letter constitutes our notification that specified additional information is needed in order to fully assess this amendment. The 90-day review period has been stopped by this request and will resume as soon as a complete and substantive response to all of the above questions is received.

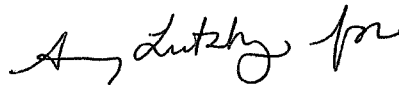
We look forward to continued discussions on the state's proposal. Your Project Officer is Victoria Collins. Ms. Collins' contact information is as follows:

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services  
Mail Stop S2-01-16  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850  
Telephone: (410) 786-2176  
Facsimile: (410) 786-5882  
E-mail: Victoria.Collins@cms.hhs.gov

We appreciate the efforts of your staff and share your goal of providing quality health care to low income, uninsured children through title XXI. If you have questions or concerns regarding the matters raised in this letter, your staff may contact Victoria Collins at (410) 786-2176. She will provide or arrange for any technical assistance you may require in preparing your response. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Nablo" followed by a flourish.

Linda Nablo,  
Director, Division of State Coverage Programs

cc: Mr. Bill Brooks, Associate Regional Administrator, CMS Dallas Region 6