

Children and Adults Health Programs Group

April 24, 2020

Jami Snyder
Director
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
801 East Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Dear Ms. Snyder:

Your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) state plan amendment (SPA), AZ-20-0002, submitted on March 25, 2020, has been approved. This SPA has a retroactive effective date of January 27, 2020.

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, Arizona requested to implement the following flexibilities during a state or federally declared public health emergency or disaster:

- Waive requirements related to timely processing of applications and renewals;
- Delay processing of renewals and extend deadlines for families to respond to renewal requests;
- Delay acting on changes in circumstances affecting eligibility, other than changes related to residency, death, voluntary termination of coverage, erroneous eligibility determinations, and becoming eligible for Medicaid;
- Waive collection of premiums and suspend the premium lock-out policy;
- Request to temporarily provide continuous eligibility to CHIP enrollees; and
- Conduct tribal consultation subsequent to the submission of this SPA, as permitted under section 1135 of the Social Security Act.

In the event of a future disaster, this SPA provides Arizona with the authority to implement the aforementioned temporary policy adjustments by simply notifying CMS of its intent, the effective date and duration of the provision, and a list of applicable Governor or federally-declared disaster or emergency areas. While the state must provide notice to CMS, this option provides an administratively streamlined pathway for the state to effectively respond to an evolving disaster event.

Your title XXI project officer is Ms. Joyce Jordan. She is available to answer questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related issues. Ms. Jordan's contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Mail Stop: S2-01-16
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Telephone: (410) 786-3413
E-mail: Joyce.Jordan@cms.hhs.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Meg Barry, Acting Director, Division of State Coverage Programs at (410) 786-1536. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Lutzky", written over a horizontal line.

Amy Lutzky
Acting Deputy Director

cc: Courtney Miller, Director, Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group
Jackie Glaze, Deputy Director, Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group