

DSS-4357EL
WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
DIVISION: Office of Medicaid Management

05/31/01
PAGE 1

GIS 01 MA/014

TO: All Local District Commissioners

FROM: Kathryn Kuhmerker, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Medicaid Management

SUBJECT: Family Health Plus Program

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: (Eligibility, Systems, Local) Upstate (518)474-9130
NYC (212)268-6855

CONTACT PERSON: (All Other Questions) Statewide (518)473-5330

We are pleased to announce Federal approval of New York's waiver to implement the Family Health Plus program. Family Health Plus, authorized by a new Title 11-D, Article 5 of the Social Services Law, will provide comprehensive health coverage through managed care for low income uninsured adults. When fully implemented, parents with gross incomes up to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and singles with gross incomes up to 100% FPL, will be eligible.

Applications for Family Health Plus will be accepted as soon as September 1, 2001. The application, currently being field-tested by several local districts, plans, and community organizations, is a simplified form. It collects all the information necessary to determine Child Health Plus A & B eligibility for children, and community Medicaid eligibility for adults under age 65. Families will be able to apply for Family Health Plus at local district offices and through facilitated enrollment organizations. To ensure that local social services districts, managed care plans, facilitators and applicants are properly informed about the program, the following activities will occur over the next few months:

- Training on the application will take place in July for local districts, August for managed care plans, and September for community-based facilitated enrollers.
- Systems support will be available in September.
- Lists of managed care plans and facilitated enrollment organizations approved for Family Health Plus will be made available to local districts in August.
- A toll-free Helpline, 1-877-934-7587 (1-877-9FHPLUS), has been established to answer consumer inquiries. It is operational now. Persons calling this number will receive a fact sheet about Family Health Plus to help them assess if they may be eligible. The application form will not be available for distribution before August. You may refer the public to this number, or to the Department of Health's website at www.health.state.ny.us. In addition, you will receive a set of questions and answers about Family Health Plus under separate cover. You may use these if you wish to handle inquiries directly.

DSS-4357EL
WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
DIVISION: Office of Medicaid Management

05/31/01
PAGE 2

GIS 01 MA/014

As additional information and details become available, they will be shared with you and your staff. In the interim, any questions you may have may be directed as follows:

Eligibility, Systems and Local District roles: Please contact your Local District representatives: Upstate (518) 474-9130, New York City: (212) 268-6855

For other FHPlus program information, please call 518-473-5330