

TO: All Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Betty Rice, Director
Division of Consumer and Local District Relations

SUBJECT: Child Health Plus A (Medicaid) Coverage for Children Age Six through Age Eighteen From 133% to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2005

CONTACT PERSON: Medicaid - Local District Support Unit
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The purpose of this GIS is to alert districts to forthcoming changes to the Child Health Plus (CHPlus) A income level for children age six through age eighteen, pursuant to Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2004. The income level for these children will decrease from 133% to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The Department is implementing this change effective April 1, 2005.

The legislation requires children currently enrolled in CHPlus A due to their eligibility at the higher income level to remain enrolled until their next scheduled renewal. Districts will not be required to take action on these cases until the child's annual renewal. At renewal, such children must be automatically transferred to CHPlus B without a new application.

Prior to this transfer, potentially disabled children must be screened for eligibility under the SSI-related category. The Department is currently developing a process to accomplish the transfer to CHPlus B and to identify children who appear potentially disabled for districts. Districts will need to ensure processes are in place to expedite the disability determinations of any children identified by the Department as potentially disabled. Any child whose family requests a disability determination for their child losing eligibility because of the income reduction to 100% of the FPL should also be expedited.

April 1, 2005 renewals completed and processed by the districts prior to system changes going into effect will have budgets showing eligibility at 133% of the FPL for these children. Under continuous coverage provisions, districts must allow such children to remain on CHPlus A until their next scheduled renewal in April, 2006. An administrative directive fully explaining these changes is forthcoming. Systems instructions will be published in the WMS/CNS Coordinator letter associated with the March 21, 2005 WMS system migration.