



Office of External Affairs

MEDICAID FACT SHEET

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Disaster Relief Emergency Medicaid Waiver Program

Speeding Access to Care, Helping Those in Need

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken numerous actions to ensure that the Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP) will respond to the health care needs of beneficiaries and medical providers affected by Hurricane Katrina. CMS is working on a daily basis to ensure access to care for evacuees and payment to providers, and is working with affected states to meet the needs of the victims of this disaster.

To ensure that the Medicaid and SCHIP programs can respond expeditiously to the needs of evacuees, CMS has worked with States to develop an approach that will allow States to meet the health care needs of evacuees in the communities in which they are now living.

In response to the needs of affected States, CMS has developed a section 1115 model waiver template to provide expedited health care coverage to meet the needs of low-income beneficiaries who need health care. CMS has established a staff team to provide expedited review and approval of these waivers so that care can quickly be provided to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

As the President said, States that provide these urgently needed health services in good faith to evacuees should be supported. Waiver states will send to CMS their full costs of providing care under the waiver as part of their cost reports, so that states will be made whole for the costs of care incurred for evacuees. The President is working with Congress to assist the home states with the added burdens they are facing as a result of the hurricane.

Under the expedited waiver program, States in which Hurricane Katrina victims are now residing ("Host States") will be able to provide temporary eligibility for five months of Medicaid or SCHIP coverage to evacuees who are parents, pregnant women, children under age 19, individuals with disabilities, low income Medicare recipients, and low income individuals in need of long-term care up to specified income levels included in the attached simplified eligibility chart. Host States may choose to use the Medicaid and SCHIP eligibility rules of an evacuee's Home State in determining eligibility for the temporary Medicaid or SCHIP coverage.

Under this expedited program, evacuees will be able to register for Medicaid or SCHIP without many of the traditional administrative requirements for verification and enrollment. CMS recognizes that many people's income and resources have changed significantly because of Hurricane Katrina, and that they may not have the usual documentation. Consequently, we expect

many people to be eligible who would not have been before the hurricane, and we want to make sure all of them get help.

Other features of the model section 1115 template include:

- Evacuees may apply using a simplified application in the Host State.
- Normal documentation requirements for verification of Medicaid and SCHIP eligibility, including residency requirements, may be waived. Evacuee status can be established by self-attestation of displacement, resources, income, and immigration status, but evacuees will be required to cooperate in demonstrating evacuee and eligibility status.
- Host states may extend the expedited application process to evacuees who may be newly eligible because of new economic circumstances created by the hurricane (i.e. loss of job and income or resources that may have made them ineligible prior to the storm.)
- Host States will provide their own Medicaid and SCHIP State Program benefit packages to the evacuees. The cost of services provided to evacuees determined eligible are not counted against any other section 1115, section 1915(b) or (c) waiver the State may have, including Home and Community Based Services waiver slots.
- Host States have the option to waive cost sharing for evacuees. If cost sharing is not waived, it must be imposed under normal Medicaid and SCHIP rules.
- States will not be required to meet budget neutrality tests under these demonstration programs. Individuals participating in the waiver will be presumed to be otherwise eligible for Medicaid in their respective home state and costs to the federal government would have otherwise been incurred or allowable.
- Host States will submit to CMS the full cost of providing care to evacuees, including the state share, when submitting their estimated expenditures to CMS as a component of their usual cost reporting for determining federal payments.

If individuals with evacuee status wish to be determined eligible for regular Medicaid/SCHIP, at the end of the temporary eligibility period, they must reapply for eligibility under a permanent eligibility category in either their Host or Home State.

Using this template as a foundation, CMS will work with individual States to address any substantial additional uncompensated care costs for needed services for evacuees.

Individuals can apply for evacuee status through January 31, 2006 and the waiver program will continue through June 30, 2006.

Section 1115 Demonstration Relief From Hurricane Katrina
 Evacuee Eligibility Simplification Based on Home State Eligibility Rules

Children Under Age 19	up to and including 200% FPL
Pregnant Women from Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida	up to and including 185% FPL
Pregnant Women from Alabama	up to and including 133% FPL
Individuals with Disabilities	up to and including 300% SSI
Low income Medicare Recipients	up to and including 100% FPL
Low income individuals in need of long term care	up to and including 300% SSI
Low-income Parents of Children Under Age 19	up to and including 100% FPL