

STATE BENEFIT UPDATES

April 23, 2008

STOPPING NEW APPROVALS OF FAMILY CARE BENEFITS FOR ADULTS WITH INCOMES OVER 133% OF FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FAMILY CARE EXPANSION)

State IDHS (FCRC) staff has just received instructions that effective immediately they are to no longer approve Family Care medical benefits for non-pregnant adults with incomes greater than 133% of FPL.

This change affects adults who would previously been approved for Family Care Share and Family Care Premiums 1-3.

Children are still going to be approved for All Kids Share, and Premiums 1-8. Pregnant woman with incomes at or below 200% of FPL will still have eligibility determined for Moms and Babies.

Further Information

A short time ago Family Care Expansion had expanded health care coverage to eligible adults with incomes between 133% and 400% of FPL. Additionally, Family Care Share provided health coverage to adults with incomes between 133% and 150% of FPL.

Effective immediately these programs are no longer available. There is no information available at this time about what will happen to adults that had been previously authorized health care using the expanded income criteria.

When a family applies for Family Care or All Kids for children and adults, state staff will review the family income. If the income is over 133% of the FPL, the state worker will now approve the children for the correct All Kids medical program but will deny the adults medical coverage. The state will send a letter telling the adults that medical coverage is denied. The letter sent to the adults will contain the message:

"Your income is above the limit for medical benefits after applying your medical expenses. The adult(s) in your family are not eligible for All Kids/FamilyCare Share or All Kids/FamilyCare Premium because your income is above the limit."

Questions from Families Regarding FamilyCare

Since these changes are likely to prompt inquiries from families regarding the FamilyCare program, families who have questions are to call the Health Benefits and All Kids Hotline at 1-800-226-0768.

Family Health Plan Spenddown cases

The state policy release about this change does not contain any information about the impact that this will have on state staff determining eligibility for a Family Health Spenddown program. I am presuming that if the need still exists for this benefit program, your client should ask the IDHS worker to assess spenddown eligibility.



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