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State/Territory Name: Alabama

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: AL-24-0032-CEEC

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850



Children and Adults Health Programs Group

July 23, 2024

Wanda Davis
Deputy Director, Children's Health Insurance Program
201 Monroe Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Dear Deputy Director Davis:

Your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendment (SPA), AL-24-0032-CEEC, submitted on July 1, 2024, has been approved. This SPA has an effective date of January 1, 2024.

Through this SPA, Alabama continues to provide 12 months of continuous eligibility (CE) coverage to individuals enrolled in its separate CHIP, pursuant to section 5112 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023). Section 5112 of the CAA, 2023 amended titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to require that states provide 12 months of CE for children under the age of 19 in Medicaid and CHIP. In Alabama, this provision applies to targeted low-income children and the from-conception-to-end-of-pregnancy (FCEP) population. A copy of the approved CS27 state plan page is attached to be incorporated into the state's approved CHIP state plan.

Furthermore, Alabama confirms the state does not disenroll children from coverage due to late premium payments during the CE period but does disenroll children from coverage if the annual premium remains unpaid at the end of the CE period. The state's existing CS21 state plan page describes the state's premium lock-out policy. The "Medicaid Program; Streamlining the Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, and Basic Health Program Application, Eligibility Determination, Enrollment, and Renewal Processes" final rule (89 FR 22780) published on April 2, 2024, amended 42 C.F.R. §457.570 to prohibit states from implementing premium lock-out policies in CHIP. Alabama has until June 3, 2025 to implement the necessary changes to discontinue this policy and until September 30, 2025 to submit a SPA indicating the change.

Your Project Officer is Joshua Bougie. He is available to answer your questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related matters. His contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Telephone: (410) 786-8117
E-mail: joshua.bougie@cms.hhs.gov

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

Sincerely,
/Signed by Sarah deLone/

Sarah deLone
Director



CHIP Eligibility

State Name:

OMB Control Number: 0938-1148

Transmittal Number: AL - 24 - 0032

Separate Child Health Insurance Program General Eligibility - Continuous Eligibility

CS27

2107(e)(1)(K) of the SSA and 42 CFR 457.342 and 435.926; 2107(e)(1)(J) and 1902(e)(16) of the SSA

Mandatory 12-Month Postpartum Continuous Eligibility in CHIP for States Electing This Option in Medicaid

At state option in Medicaid, states may elect to provide continuous eligibility for an individual's 12-month postpartum period consistent with section 1902(e)(16) of the SSA. If elected under Medicaid, states are required to provide the same continuous eligibility and extended postpartum period for pregnant individuals in its separate CHIP. A separate CHIP cannot implement this option if not also elected under the Medicaid state plan.

State elected the Medicaid option to provide continuous eligibility through the 12- month postpartum period

- ☒ The state assures the extended postpartum period available to pregnant targeted low-income children or targeted low-income pregnant women under section 2107(e)(1)(J) of the SSA is provided consistent with the following provisions:

- Individuals who, while pregnant, were eligible and received services under the state child health plan or waiver shall
- ☒ remain eligible throughout the duration of the pregnancy (including any period of retroactive eligibility) and the 12-month postpartum period, beginning on the day the pregnancy ends and ending on the last day of the 12th month consistent with paragraphs (5) and (16) of section 1902(e) of the SSA

- ☒ Continuous eligibility is provided to targeted low-income children who are pregnant or targeted low-income pregnant women (if applicable) who are eligible for and enrolled under the state child health plan through the end of the 12-month postpartum period who would otherwise lose eligibility because of a change in circumstances, unless:

- ☐ The individual or representative requests voluntary disenrollment.
- ☐ The individual is no longer a resident of the state.
- ☐ The Agency determines that eligibility was erroneously granted at the most recent determination or renewal of eligibility because of Agency error or fraud, abuse, or perjury attributed to the individual.
- ☐ The individual dies.

Unlike continuous eligibility for children, states providing the 12-month postpartum period may not end an individual's continuous eligibility due to becoming eligible for Medicaid.

- ☒ Consistent with section 2107(e)(1)(J) of the SSA, the state assures that continuous eligibility is provided through an individual's pregnancy and 12-month postpartum period regardless of an individual becoming eligible for Medicaid.

- ☒ Benefits provided during the 12-month postpartum period must be the same scope of comprehensive services consistent with the benefit package elected by the state under section 2103(a) of the SSA that is available to targeted low-income children and/or targeted low-income pregnant women and may include additional benefits as described in Section 6 of the CHIP state plan.



CHIP Eligibility

Mandatory Continuous Eligibility for Children

The CHIP Agency must provide that children who have been determined eligible under the state plan shall remain eligible, regardless of any changes in the family's circumstances, for a 12-month continuous eligibility period.

☒ Consistent with section 2107(e)(1)(K) of the SSA, the state assures that continuous eligibility is provided to its targeted low-income children for a duration of 12 months, regardless of any changes in circumstances, unless:

- ☐ The child attains age 19.
- ☐ The child or child's representative requests voluntary disenrollment.
- ☐ The child is no longer a resident of the state.
- ☐ The Agency determines that eligibility was erroneously granted at the most recent determination or renewal of eligibility because of Agency error or fraud, abuse, or perjury attributed to child or child's representative.
- ☐ The child dies.
- ☐ The child becomes eligible for Medicaid.

The state elects to provide coverage to the from-conception-to-end-of-pregnancy (FCEP) population (otherwise known as the "unborn").

Yes

☒ The state assures continuous eligibility for the FCEP population is provided in the same manner as continuous eligibility for other targeted low-income children, except for the duration of the continuous eligibility period.

The duration of continuous eligibility for the FCEP population depends on whether a state enrolls the birthing parent into Medicaid for coverage of labor and delivery or pays for the delivery under CHIP. The state conducts at least one of the following actions upon birth of the child:

CHIP pays for labor and delivery and the state screens the child for potential eligibility for Medicaid.

Yes

Emergency Medicaid pays for labor and delivery and the state deems the newborn eligible for Medicaid and ends the continuous eligibility period in CHIP.

No

PRA Disclosure Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-1148. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 50 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

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