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**State/Territory Name:** Iowa

**State Plan Amendment (SPA) #:** IA-24-0014

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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**

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January 6, 2025

Rebecca Curtiss  
Interim Medicaid Director  
Iowa Department of Human Services  
Iowa Medicaid Enterprise  
611 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Director Curtiss:

Your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendment (SPA) IA-24-0014, submitted on October 21, 2024, has been approved. Through this SPA, Iowa provides 12 months of continuous postpartum coverage to individuals enrolled in its separate CHIP, pursuant to section 9822 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). This SPA has an effective date of January 1, 2025, and is a companion to the Medicaid continuous postpartum coverage SPA, IA-25-0001.

Section 9822 of the ARP added section 2107(e)(1)(J) to the Social Security Act (the Act), which requires states to provide continuous eligibility throughout an individual's pregnancy and 12-month postpartum period in CHIP if the state has elected this option in Medicaid. In Iowa, this provision applies to targeted low-income children who are pregnant. A copy of the approved CS27 state plan page is attached to be incorporated into the state's approved CHIP state plan.

In addition to 12-month continuous postpartum coverage, the CS27 state plan page is used to describe the state's continuous eligibility policies for children in a separate CHIP. Section 5112 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023) amended section 1902(e)(12) and added a new paragraph (K) to section 2017(e)(1) to require states to provide 12 months of continuous eligibility for children under the age of 19 in Medicaid and CHIP effective January 1, 2024. Iowa submitted SPAs IA-24-0005 and IA-24-0015 on October 21, 2024, to demonstrate compliance with section 5112 of the CAA, 2023. These SPAs are separately under review by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). As SPAs IA-24-0005 and IA-24-0015 remain under review, the approval of the continuous postpartum coverage section of the CS27 state plan page reflected in SPA IA-24-0014 does not constitute an approval of the continuous eligibility section for children at this time.

Your Project Officer is Carrie Grubert. Carrie is available to answer your questions concerning these amendments and other CHIP-related matters. Carrie's 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) 786-8319  
E-mail: [Carrie.Grubert@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Carrie.Grubert@cms.hhs.gov)

If you have additional questions, please contact Liz Clark, Deputy Director, Children and Adult Health Programs Group, at (443) 729-6362. 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: IA - 24 - 0014

## 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").

### 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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