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State/Territory Name: New Jersey

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: NJ-26-0036

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Children and Adults Health Programs Group

September 8, 2026

Gregory Woods
Assistant Commissioner
State of New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
PO Box 712
Trenton, NJ 08625-0712

Dear Assistant Commissioner Woods:

Your Title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendment (SPA) NJ-26-0036 submitted on June 30, 2026, has been approved. The effective date for this SPA is January 1, 2026.

Through NJ-26-0036, New Jersey demonstrates compliance with section 205 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (CAA, 2024) by modifying CHIP eligibility requirements for the treatment of incarcerated pregnant women. Section 205 of the CAA, 2024, amends section 2102(d)(1)(A) of the Act to expand the prohibition on terminating eligibility to CHIP-enrolled pregnant women solely because an individual is an inmate of a public institution. Additionally, the state clarifies policies related to a pregnant woman's enrollment in managed care while incarcerated.

Your Project Officer is Jennifer McIlvaine. She is available to answer your questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related matters and can be reached at Jennifer.mcilvaine@cms.hhs.gov.

If you have additional questions, please contact Mary Beth Hance, Director, Division of State Coverage Programs, at (410) 786-4299. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,
/Signed by Jessica Stephens/

Jessica Stephens
Acting Director

Section 1.4 cont'd

SPA # 26-0036 – Prohibition of Termination of Enrollment for Incarcerated Pregnant Women (updated CS31)

Proposed Effective Date: January 1, 2026

Proposed Implementation Date: January 1, 2026

3.1.1.2 Do any of your CHIP populations that receive services through a managed care delivery system receive services outside of a managed care delivery system?

☐ No

☒ Yes

If yes, please describe which services are carved out of your managed care delivery system and how the State provides these services to an enrollee, such as through fee-for-service. Examples of carved out services may include transportation and dental, among others.

Mental health services are fee for service.

Pregnant women who become incarcerated will be excluded from managed care for the duration of their incarceration and may be reenrolled in managed care upon discharge from the correctional facility.



CHIP Eligibility

State Name:

OMB Control Number: 0938-1148

Transmittal Number: NJ - 26 - 0036

Incarcerated CHIP Beneficiaries

CS31

2102(d) and 2110(b)(7) of the SSA

Targeted Low-Income Children Who Become Incarcerated

- ☐ The state assures that it does not terminate eligibility for children enrolled in a separate CHIP because the child is an inmate of a public institution.

States may either suspend CHIP coverage or continue to provide CHIP state plan (or waiver of such plan) services otherwise not covered by the carceral facility to children who are incarcerated. States that elect to suspend CHIP coverage for the duration of a child's incarceration may implement a benefits or eligibility suspension.

The state elects to suspend CHIP coverage for the duration of a child's incarceration

If yes, then check an option below:

- ☐ Benefits suspension
☐ Eligibility suspension

- ☐ The state assures that it redetermines eligibility for any child prior to their release if it has been longer than 12 months since the child's last redetermination and restores coverage for child health assistance to eligible children upon their release.

- Within the 30 days prior to release (or within one week of release, or as soon as practicable after release), the state assures that it
☐ provides eligible children with any screenings, diagnostic services, or case management services that would otherwise be available to children under the CHIP state plan (or waiver of such plan).

Additional information regarding implementation of mandatory provisions of section 5121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023), including providing screenings, diagnostic services, or case management services:

Under section 5122 of the CAA, 2023, states may consider otherwise eligible children who are inmates pending disposition of charges as eligible for CHIP and provide all services covered under the CHIP state plan.

- ☐ The state elects to provide all CHIP state plan benefits (or waiver of such plan) to eligible children who are inmates pending disposition of charges.

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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CHIP Eligibility

Children Determined Eligible for CHIP While Incarcerated

Generally, children who apply for CHIP when they are in a carceral facility are not eligible because of the eligibility exclusion for inmates of a public institution under section 2110(b) of the Act. However, section 2110(b)(7) of the Act provides an exception to this eligibility exclusion for children who are within 30 days prior to their release.

- ☐ The state assures that they will process any application submitted on behalf of a child and make an eligibility determination for child health assistance upon their release from the institution.
- ☐ Children who apply and are found eligible within 30 days prior to their release will be provided screening and diagnostic services, and case management services that are otherwise available under the CHIP state plan (or waiver of such plan).

Targeted Low-Income Pregnant Women Who Become Incarcerated

- ☒ The state assures that it does not terminate eligibility for pregnant women enrolled in a separate CHIP because the pregnant woman is an inmate of a public institution.

States may either suspend CHIP coverage or continue to provide CHIP state plan (or waiver of such plan) services otherwise not covered by the carceral facility to pregnant women who are incarcerated. States that elect to suspend CHIP coverage for the duration of a pregnant woman's incarceration may implement a benefits or eligibility suspension.

The state elects to suspend CHIP coverage for the duration of a pregnant woman's incarceration

Yes

If yes, then check an option below:

- ☒ Benefits suspension
- ☐ Eligibility suspension

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