



**Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services**

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October 27, 2011

Judith Arnold, Director  
Division of Coverage & Enrollment  
Office of Health Insurance Programs  
State of New York Department of Health  
Corning Tower  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York, 12237-0004

Dear Ms. Arnold:

Your eighteenth title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State plan amendment (SPA) submitted on September 20, 2011, has been approved. This SPA provides temporary adjustments to the State's enrollment and redetermination policies, and cost sharing requirements for families impacted by disaster events. Through this SPA, the State can provide families with additional time to complete the renewal process, and has the flexibility to waive outstanding premium balances for families living and or working in FEMA or Governor declared disaster counties. This amendment, as it applies to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, has a retroactive effective date of August 25, 2011.

In the event of a future natural disaster, this SPA provides New York with the authority to implement the aforementioned temporary policy adjustments by notifying CMS of its intent, the effective date and duration of the provision, and a list of the FEMA or Governor declared disaster areas that are applicable. Although the State must provide notice to CMS, this is less administratively burdensome than repeating the SPA process during times of disaster recovery.

Your title XXI project officer is Mr. Robert Nelb. He is available to answer questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related issues. Mr. Nelb's contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification  
Mail Stop S2-01-16  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
Telephone: (410) 786-1055  
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E-mail: [robert.nelb@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:robert.nelb@cms.hhs.gov)

Official communications regarding program matters should be sent simultaneously to Mr. Nelb and to Mr. Michael Melendez, Associate Regional Administrator in our New York Regional Office. Mr. Melendez's address is:

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health  
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 37-100 North  
New York, NY 10278

If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Wachino, Director, Family and Children's Health Programs Group at (410) 786-5647.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

/s/

Cindy Mann  
Director

cc: Mr. Michael Melendez, Associate Regional Administrator, Region II