

September 30, 2024

I'm writing on behalf of Director Smith for Tennessee's CHIP program. As you know, Hurricane Helene and the related flooding have had a significant impact on a large portion of East Tennessee. Both President Biden and Governor Lee have issued disaster declarations for the areas in Tennessee impacted by Helene. (See [here](#) and [here](#)).

Accordingly, this message is to let you know that Tennessee intends to exercise some of the disaster-related flexibilities provided for in Tennessee's CHIP State Plan. Our goal in implementing these flexibilities is to prevent unnecessary coverage losses and ease of the application process for individuals in areas impacted by Helene.


Specifically, Tennessee intends to:

- Temporarily waive requirements related to timely processing of renewals and deadlines for families to respond to renewal requests for CHIP beneficiaries who reside and/or work in the disaster area.
- Temporarily delay acting on certain changes in circumstances affecting CHIP eligibility for CHIP beneficiaries who reside and/or work in the disaster area.
- Temporarily waive requirements related to timely processing of applications for CHIP applicants who reside and/or work in the disaster area.

If CMS has any questions about our intention to implement these flexibilities, we're available to speak with you.

Thank you for your partnership during this time. We will continue to be in touch as the situation here progresses.

Aaron

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