

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop: S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Children and Adults Health Programs Group

May 29, 2015

Dawn Zekis
Director, Division of Medical Services
Arkansas Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-401
700 Main Street
Little Rock, AR 72203

Dear Ms. Zekis:

With this letter, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting a temporary extension of Arkansas' ARKids B section 1115 demonstration (Project Nos. 11-W-00115/6 and 21-W-00063/6) until July 31, 2015. The demonstration is currently due to expire on May 31, 2015.

The ARKids B demonstration will continue to operate under the authority of section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act. Additionally, the current list of waiver and expenditure authorities and special terms and conditions will continue to apply to the ARKids B demonstration through July 31, 2015. This temporary extension is being approved to allow the state additional time to establish processes necessary to transition ARKids B demonstration children from 142 to 211 percent of the federal poverty level to the separate Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) state plan.

We are in receipt of the state's May 21, 2015, request to extend the ARKids B demonstration through July 31, 2015. Thank you for providing a detailed description of the steps the state must still take to prepare for the transition of children in the ARKids B program to a separate CHIP. We understand that the state must establish vaccine purchasing policies and procedures consistent with the requirements of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). By July 31, 2015, our understanding is that the state will take the following actions:

Necessary Steps in Advance of ARKids B Transition:	Date of Completion of Steps:
Prepare VPET and submit to CDC, update CDC PES, CAT, and Spend Plan for 2015	May 8 – May 29, 2015
Conduct training with Health Departments and CHIP providers	May 9, 2015 – Ongoing
Purchase vaccine for initial inventory, enter purchase orders in CDC VTrckS, and take delivery to McKesson warehouse	June 15 – July 1, 2015
Accept and process vaccine orders from CHIP providers	July 1 – July 15, 2015
Distribute vaccine to CHIP providers	July 15 – July 31, 2015
Complete transition of children to the CHIP state plan	August 1, 2015

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your project officer, Mr. Martin Burian. He can be reached at (410) 786-3246, or at martin.burian@cms.hhs.gov. We are sure the state shares our interest that children in the ARKids B program successfully transition to the separate CHIP state plan by August 1st. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

/s/

Eliot Fishman
Director

cc:

Bill Brooks, Associate Regional Administrator, Region VI