



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds  
Governor

Adam Gregg  
Lt. Governor

Jerry R. Foxhoven  
Director

August 2, 2017

Mr. Brian Neale  
Director, Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
Brian.neale@cms.hhs.gov

Re: Iowa Health and Wellness Plan §1115 Demonstration Amendment (Project Number 11-W-00289/5)

Dear Mr. Neale,

The State of Iowa (State) Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to submit the attached amendment request to its Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) §1115 Waiver Demonstration (Project Number 11-W-002289/5).

The State respectfully seeks to eliminate the current provision of three (3) months of retroactive Medicaid benefits and implement a policy whereby an applicant's Medicaid coverage shall be effective on the first day of the month in which the application for Medicaid was filed, as allowed under the Iowa Medicaid State Plan, effective for all new Medicaid applications filed on or after October 1, 2017. This amendment is consistent with legislation (House File 653) passed by the Iowa Legislature during the 2017 session, and the State seeks to implement this policy effective October 1, 2017.

We look forward to continuing to work with our federal partners at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to promote the demonstration's goal of reducing program costs.

Please do not hesitate to contact my team if you have any questions with this submission.

Sincerely,



Mikki Stier, MSHA, FACHE  
Medicaid Director  
Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

Enclosure: Iowa Health and Wellness Plan §1115 Demonstration Amendment (Project Number 11-W-00289/5) Application

cc: Jennifer Kostasich, CMS Central Office  
Megan Lepore, CMS Central Office  
James G. Scott, CMS Region VII  
Sandra Levels, CMS Region VII  
Jerry Foxhoven, Director, Iowa DHS  
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Anna Ruggle, IME  
Jennifer Steenblock, IME

**Section 1115 Demonstration Amendment**

**Iowa Wellness Plan  
Project #11-W-00289/5**

**State of Iowa  
Department of Human Services**

**August 2, 2017**

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## **Overview**

On January 1, 2014, the State of Iowa (State) implemented the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) Section 1115 demonstration. The demonstration provides access to healthcare for uninsured, low-income Iowans, while implementing a benefit design intended to address liabilities associated with simply expanding the number of enrollees in traditional Medicaid coverage. The IHAWP's design seeks to improve outcomes, increase personal responsibility, and ultimately lower costs, while supporting a population that may be new to full healthcare coverage. Through a unique incentive program, the IHAWP promotes responsible health care decisions by coupling a monthly required financial contribution with an incentive plan for members to actively seek preventive health services to earn an exemption from the monthly contribution requirement. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) approved extension of the demonstration for an additional three years effective January 1, 2017.

On May 1, 2014, CMS approved the State's request to amend the IHAWP to provide tiered dental benefits through the Dental Wellness Plan (DWP). On July 27, 2017, CMS approved an amendment which modified the DWP structure to implement an integrated dental program for all Medicaid enrollees aged 19 and over. The redesigned DWP incorporates an innovative incentive structure to improve oral health by encouraging utilization of preventive dental services and compliance with treatment plans.

Additionally, the State now seeks CMS' approval to further amend the State's current 1115 demonstration to include a waiver of retroactivity for all Iowa Medicaid eligibility groups currently receiving three months of retroactive benefits, effective for new applications filed on or after October 1, 2017. This amendment is consistent with legislation passed by the Iowa Legislature during the 2017 session, and the State seeks to implement this policy effective October 1, 2017.

## **Discussion**

Consistent with Section 1902(a)(34) of the Social Security Act, upon an individual being determined eligible for Medicaid, the State currently provides such benefits retroactively for three months prior to the month in which the individual's application was filed. The State's rationale for this amendment request is founded on the fact that the commercial market does not allow for retroactive health coverage, and, if CMS grants this request to waive Section 1902(a)(34), sufficient protections will still remain in place for individuals to receive necessary care.

As mentioned above, the State seeks to more closely align Medicaid policy with that of the commercial market, which does not allow for an individual to apply for retroactive health insurance coverage. Eliminating Medicaid retroactivity encourages individuals to obtain and maintain health insurance coverage, even when healthy. With the availability of Medicaid expansion and premium tax credits, affordable coverage options have been available in Iowa for those complying with the individual mandate, thus eliminating the need for retroactive coverage. Further, by more closely aligning Iowa Medicaid policy with policy in the commercial insurance market, members will be better prepared if they are eventually able to transition to commercial health insurance.

Additionally, the State will continue to operate its presumptive eligibility (PE) program to provide Medicaid for a limited time while the formal Medicaid eligibility determination is being made by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The PE program will continue to offer immediate coverage to individuals likely to be Medicaid eligible before there has been a full Medicaid determination. Members of the following groups may be eligible under PE: children under 19; pregnant women; parents and caretakers of children under 19; individuals ages 19-64 (IHAWP); former foster care children under age 26; and, individuals screened and diagnosed through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) and needing treatment for breast or cervical cancer. PE will continue to ensure that

members determined presumptively eligible are able to immediately access necessary health services.

Finally, while the State seeks to eliminate the three-month retroactive benefits policy, it is not seeking to eliminate retroactive coverage in its entirety. Individuals will continue to receive coverage effective with the first day of the month in which their Medicaid application was filed, or as otherwise allowed by the State Plan. This will ensure that individuals are not unintentionally penalized if application processing is delayed by no fault of the applicant. Additionally, the policy will apply to new applications or new add-on requests only. For members submitting a renewal, the State will continue to provide a 90-day reconsideration period.

#### *Amendment Overview*

Through this amendment, the State will eliminate the current provision of three months of retroactive benefits for all Iowa Medicaid eligibility groups currently receiving retroactive coverage. On October 1, 2017, the State will implement a policy whereby these applicants' Medicaid coverage will be effective on the first day of the month in which the application for Medicaid was filed or as otherwise allowed by the State Plan, effective for applications or add-on requests filed or requested on or after October 1, 2017.

#### **Title XIX Waiver Request**

The State requests to continue all currently approved waivers and proposes the following addition to the existing Iowa Wellness Plan Title XIX waivers:

1. Retroactivity Section 1902(a)(34)

To the extent necessary to enable the State not to provide medical coverage for any month prior to the month in which the member's Medicaid application was filed.

#### **Amendment Process Required Elements**

##### *Public Notice*

The State provided the public the opportunity to review and provide input on this amendment in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Iowa Wellness Plan Demonstration (11-W-00289/5) special terms and conditions (STCs). Public notice was provided on June 27, 2017. A copy of the public notice is contained in Attachment A. This notice, the waiver amendment, and other documentation regarding the proposal were posted at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/public-notices>, and non-electronic copies were made available for review at Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) Field Offices. Additional notice was also provided via the Iowa Medicaid e-News, which was sent to more than 4,100 stakeholders on June 27, 2017. In addition, a summary notice was published in several newspapers with statewide circulation. The notice provided the option for any individual to submit written feedback to the State by email or by USPS mail. Comments were accepted via email and a physical address was provided for written comments to be submitted by mail or in person.

In addition, the State held two public hearings to offer an opportunity for the public to provide written or verbal comments on the amendment. Hearings were held on July 11, 2017 from 2 – 3 p.m. at the Hoover State Office Building, A-Level Conference Room 6, 1305 E. Walnut St., Des Moines. Toll free conference call capabilities were made available at this hearing by calling 1-866-685-1580, conference code 515-725-1031# to accommodate interested parties who were unable to attend a hearing in person. A second hearing was held July 12, 2017 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Sioux City Public Library, 529 Pierce Street, Sioux City. The public comment period ended on July 27, 2017.

### *Summary of Public Comments*

The State received a total of 27 public comments on the waiver submission. Three comments were in the form of verbal testimony at the Des Moines public hearing, two additional commenters at the Des Moines hearing provided both verbal testimony followed-up by written comments, and 22 comments were written. There were no attendees at the public hearing held in Sioux City.

The majority of the comments received were opposed to the elimination of the current provision of three months of retroactive benefits for all Iowa Medicaid eligibility groups currently receiving retroactive coverage. The State received one comment supporting the waiver amendment, three neutral comments, and 23 comments opposing the waiver amendment.

In voicing support for the proposed amendment, one commenter indicated that three months of retroactive coverage is unnecessary and is costly, not only to the State, but to providers that must research coverage and resubmit claims.

Three commenters neither opposed nor supported the waiver, rather they had questions regarding the applicability of the proposed change to various groups and questions about the current retroactive authorization process.

Of the comments opposed to the amendment, one opposed the locations of the two public hearings, while the others focused on the amendment itself. One commenter expressed overall opposition to the proposed amendment without detailing the provider's concerns and suggested the State look to other cost reduction or revenue enhancement initiatives.

Commenters opposed to the amendment noted various concerns; however, the comments generally focused on potential health and financial implications for patients and financial implications for providers. Commenters felt that the proposed change will place unnecessary financial burdens on patients/family members (19 comments), particularly those who seek services during the last few days of a month and may not apply until the following month (9 comments), those in rural locations (4 comments), or those who seek facility placement (7 comments). Commenters also focused on potential financial impacts on providers (15 comments). Eight commenters noted concerns with the potential health impacts of the amendment, indicating that future enrollees may either delay or forego needed care or be placed in inappropriate or unsafe environments. Commenters (4) indicated appreciation for operation of the presumptive eligibility program, but noted that, due to various constraints, it is not sufficient alone to alleviate concerns with any potential changes to retroactive coverage. Other recurring comments included concerns with: various administrative burdens; deviation from usual policy, including that of neighboring states; impact to individuals having a baby; impact to hospitalized or trauma patients; impact of applying commercial market policy to the Medicaid population; the estimate of the number of patients and providers who will be impacted; application of the policy to populations other than non-disabled adults; variance from retroactivity waivers approved by CMS for other states; the public notice, including the proposed effective date of the amendment; a state plan amendment (SPA) being needed to effectuate the proposed changes; and, enrollment and fiscal projections not aligning with the projections of the legislation to which the amendment corresponds. Additionally, the State received a comment requesting that policy be clarified via administrative rulemaking and a comment indicating that the future of the IHAWP is uncertain in light of the current Congressional debate surrounding the future of the Affordable Care Act.

### *State Response to Public Comments*

The State appreciates all comments received during the public hearings or shared with the State in writing. While all comments have been taken under consideration, no changes have been made to this

application as a result of public comment. The changes proposed via this amendment are consistent with legislation passed by the Iowa legislature during the 2017 session. Specifically, House File 653 (2017) directs the State to seek a waiver from CMS to eliminate “the three-month retroactive Medicaid coverage benefit for Medicaid applicants effective October 1, 2017.” Per the legislation, and as noted in this application, the State seeks CMS approval to make Medicaid benefits retroactive to the first of the month in which application is filed, consistent with Iowa’s Medicaid State Plan, for applications filed on or after October 1, 2017.

Many commenters expressed concern with the potential health and financial impacts this change could have on patients as well as the potential financial impact it could have on providers; particularly, commenters were concerned with individuals needing services at the end of a month and individuals in or needing nursing facility placement. While the State appreciates these concerns, it is making the proposed changes as a result of State law. Furthermore, the State notes that safeguards are in place. Potential concerns are alleviated by the fact that the State will continue to operate its presumptive eligibility program. Additionally, the State reiterates that it is not eliminating retroactive coverage for new applicants in its entirety. The State will continue to provide Medicaid benefits retroactive to the first of the month in which application was *filed*. It appears, based on comments received, that some members of the public were under the assumption that the eligibility effective date would be retroactive to the first day of the month the application was processed, which is not the proposed policy.

The State also received multiple comments addressing concerns with the proposed October 1, 2017 effective date, noting that the currently approved STCs for the Iowa Wellness Plan 1115 Demonstration require proposed changes to be submitted to CMS no later than 120 days prior to the implementation of the changes. Additionally, one commenter indicated that the effective date of the proposed amendment is inconsistent with the language of the legislation. The State has not made any changes to the proposed effective date because, while it acknowledges the submission is fewer than 120 days prior to proposed implementation, CMS is aware of this and is aware that the timeline was shortened due to the language of the legislation, which directs the State to implement these changes effective October 1, 2017.

Two commenters raised concerns that a SPA is necessary to implement the proposed changes that affect Medicaid populations not included in the Iowa Wellness Plan 1115 Demonstration. The State agrees with these comments and is in the process of submitting amendments to the State Plan to effectuate the changes. However, due to federal submission and approval requirements, state plan amendments are not required to be submitted on the same timeline as amendments to the Iowa Wellness Plan Demonstration. Another comment indicated the request for administrative rulemaking on the retroactivity waiver policy, and the State similarly notes that it is currently undertaking this promulgation process.

Finally, the State understands that some commenters had concerns with the populations affected by the proposed amendment and concerns that the fiscal or enrollment projections are not aligned with projections made by the Iowa legislature. These comments have been taken under consideration; however, no changes have been made. The State is mandated to follow the language of House File 653 (2017), which neither limits the proposed changes to only the new adult Medicaid population nor indicates specific financial projections or considerations. Additionally, the State understands that there is concern surrounding the future of the Affordable Care Act and the IHAWP; however, the proposed changes are being made pursuant to the law as it currently stands at both the Federal and State levels.

With the exception of the content of this application summarizing the public and tribal comment period and one updated sentence reflecting CMS’ recent approval of the DWP amendment, this application is identical to the copy of the application posted for public comment.



#### *Tribal Notice*

The State initiated consultation with Iowa's federally recognized Indian tribes, Indian health programs, and urban Indian health organizations on June 27, 2017. Consultation was conducted in accordance with the process outlined in Iowa's Medicaid State Plan, and consisted of a phone call to the State of Iowa's Indian Health Services Liaison followed by electronic notice directed to Indian Health Service/Tribal/Urban Indian Health (I/T/U) Tribal Leaders and Tribal Medical Directors identified by the Iowa Indian Health Services Liaison. A copy of the tribal notice is contained in Attachment B. The State did not receive any comments from its federally recognized Indian tribes, Indian health programs, or urban Indian health organizations.

#### *Budget Neutrality Impact*

The changes being proposed do not impact the Iowa Wellness Plan budget neutrality calculations.

#### *CHIP Allotment*

This requirement is not applicable to this amendment request, as the amendment does not make any changes to the CHIP program.

#### *Evaluation*

The State does not propose any modifications to the current evaluation plan as a result of this amendment.

#### **Conclusion**

The current IHAWP 1115 was designed to improve outcomes, increase personal responsibility, and ultimately lower costs. To further the goal of lowering costs, the State seeks to modify the current demonstration to include a waiver of retroactivity for all Medicaid enrollees. This waiver amendment would allow the State to implement a policy whereby an applicant in any eligibility group currently receiving three months of retroactive Medicaid coverage shall now have coverage effective on the first day of the month in which the application for Medicaid was filed or as otherwise approved by the State Plan, which is more closely aligned with the commercial market.

## **Attachment A – Public Notice**

### **NOTICE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD TO AMEND THE 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVER**

Pursuant to 42 CFR 431.408, notice is hereby given that the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) will provide the public the opportunity to review and provide input on an amendment to the §1115 Iowa Demonstration Waiver to implement changes to the effective date for Medicaid benefits effective October 1, 2017. This notice provides details about the waiver amendment submission and serves to open the 30-day public comment period, which closes on July 27, 2017.

In addition to the 30-day public comment period in which the public will be able to provide written comments to the DHS via US postal service or electronic mail, the DHS will host two public hearings in which the public may provide verbal comments. Hearings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

**July 11, 2017** 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Hoover State Office Building  
A-Level, Conference Room 6  
1305 E. Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Call: 1-866-685-1580 Code: 515-725-1031#

**July 12, 2017** 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Sioux City Public Library  
529 Pierce Street  
Sioux City, IA 51101

Prior to finalizing the proposed waiver amendment, the DHS will consider all the written and verbal public comments received. The comments will be summarized and addressed in the final draft of the waiver amendment to be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

#### **AMENDMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

Effective for new applications filed on or after October 1, 2017, the State will eliminate the provision of three months of retroactive benefits for all Iowa Medicaid eligibility groups currently receiving retroactive coverage. On October 1, 2017, the State will implement a policy whereby these applicants' Medicaid coverage will be effective on the first day of the month in which the application for Medicaid was filed or as otherwise allowed in the State Plan. This change in policy is consistent with Iowa House File 653 (2017).

This revision will more closely align Medicaid policy with that of the commercial market, which does not allow for an individual to apply for retroactive health insurance coverage. Eliminating Medicaid retroactivity encourages individuals to obtain and maintain health insurance coverage, even when healthy. With the availability of Medicaid expansion and premium tax credits, affordable coverage options have been available in Iowa for those complying with the individual mandate, thus eliminating the need for retroactive coverage. Further, by more closely aligning Iowa Medicaid policy with policy in the commercial insurance market, members will be better prepared if they are eventually able to transition to commercial health insurance.

The State will continue to operate its presumptive eligibility (PE) program to provide Medicaid for a limited time while the formal Medicaid eligibility determination is being made by the DHS. The PE program will continue to offer immediate coverage to individuals likely to be Medicaid eligible before there has been a full Medicaid determination. Members of the following groups may be eligible under PE: children under 19; pregnant women; parents and caretakers of children under 19; individuals ages 19-64

(IHAWP); former foster care children under age 26; and, individuals screened and diagnosed through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) and needing treatment for breast or cervical cancer. PE will continue to ensure that members determined presumptively eligible are able to immediately access necessary health services.

While the State seeks to eliminate the three-month retroactive benefits policy, it is not seeking to eliminate retroactive coverage of benefits in its entirety. Individuals will continue to receive coverage effective with the first day of the month in which their Medicaid application was filed or as otherwise allowed by the State Plan. This will ensure that individuals are not unintentionally penalized if application processing is delayed by no fault of the applicant. Additionally, the policy will apply to new applications or new add-on requests only. For members submitting a renewal, the State will continue to provide a 90-day reconsideration period.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This change is being made to reduce program costs, while ensuring that mechanisms, such as presumptive eligibility and retroactive coverage for the month in which the Medicaid application is filed, are in place to guarantee individuals have continued access to necessary services.

## ELIGIBILITY

Through this proposed waiver amendment, all Iowa Medicaid enrollees in eligibility groups currently eligible for three months of retroactive coverage will receive benefits effective the first of the month in which their Medicaid application is filed, effective for applications filed on or after October 1, 2017.

## ENROLLMENT & FISCAL PROJECTIONS

Elimination of retroactive coverage is expected to reduce monthly enrollment by 3,344 enrollees and reduce annual Medicaid spending by \$36.8 million. This is based on the specific retroactive months coded in the state's eligibility systems. Further detail is provided in the table below.

Impact of Eliminating Retroactive Eligibility			
Eligibility Group	Avg. Monthly Enrollees	Annual Savings	State Share
<i>Medicaid</i>			
Child	1,129	\$9,502,208	\$3,986,176
Adult	668	6,027,803	2,528,663
BCCT	1	14,250	4,184
Elderly	6	262,791	110,241
Disabled	157	4,368,799	1,832,711
Health and Wellness Plan	1,384	16,575,930	1,233,285
<b>Medicaid Total</b>	<b>3,344</b>	<b>\$36,751,782</b>	<b>\$9,695,261</b>

The changes being proposed do not impact Iowa's 1115 Demonstration Waiver budget neutrality calculations.

## BENEFITS, COST SHARING, AND DELIVERY SYSTEM

This amendment does not propose any changes in cost sharing requirements or delivery system for any enrollees. Enrollees will continue to receive the same benefits; however, the provision of three (3) months of retroactive benefits will be eliminated for new applications filed on or after October 1, 2017.

## **HYPOTHESES & EVALUATION**

The State does not propose any modifications to the current evaluation plan as a result of this amendment.

## **WAIVER AUTHORITY**

The State will request continuation of all currently approved waivers and proposes the following addition to the existing Iowa Wellness Plan Title XIX waivers:

1. Retroactivity Section 1902(a)(34)

To the extent necessary to enable the State not to provide medical coverage for any month prior to the month in which the member's Medicaid application was filed.

## **REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS & SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS**

All information regarding this amendment, including this public notice, the waiver amendment, and other documentation regarding the proposal are available at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/public-notices>. To reach all stakeholders, non-electronic copies will be made available for review at a DHS Field Office. A complete listing of DHS Field Offices is provided as an attachment to this notice.

Written comments may be addressed to Anna Ruggle, Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, 100 Army Post Road, Des Moines, IA 50315. Comments may also be sent via electronic mail to [aruggle@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:aruggle@dhs.state.ia.us). All comments must be received by July 27, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mikki Stier, Medicaid Director

Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Iowa Department of Human Services

**Attachment: DHS Field Office Locations**

<b>County</b>	<b>Building Name</b>	<b>Building Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Zip</b>
Benton	Benton County DHS	114 E 4th Street	Vinton	52349
Black Hawk	Black Hawk County DHS	1407 Independence Ave.	Waterloo	50704
Buchanan	Buchanan County DHS	1415 1st Street West	Independence	50644
Buena Vista	Buena Vista County DHS	311 E. 5th Street	Storm Lake	50588
Butler	Butler County DHS	713 Elm Street	Allison	50602
Carroll	Carroll County DHS	608 N Court Street, Ste. C	Carroll	51401
Cass	Cass County DHS	601 Walnut Street	Atlantic	50022
Cerro Gordo	Cerro Gordo County DHS	Mohawk Square, 22 N Georgia Ave, Ste. 1	Mason City	50401
Clarke	Clarke County DHS	109 S Main	Osceola	50213
Clay	Clay County DHS	1900 North Grand Ave. Ste. E-8	Spencer	51301
Clinton	Clinton County DHS	121 Sixth Ave S.	Clinton	52733
Dallas	Dallas County DHS	210 N 10th Street	Adel	50003
Des Moines	Des Moines County DHS	560 Division Street, Suite 200	Burlington	52601
Dickinson	Dickinson County DHS	Dickinson County Courthouse 1802 Hill Ave, Suite 2401	Spirit Lake	51360
Dubuque	Dubuque County DHS	410 Nesler Center, 799 Main Street	Dubuque	52004
Emmet	Emmet County DHS	220 S 1st Street	Estherville	51334
Fayette	Fayette County DHS	129 A North Vine	West Union	52175
Floyd	Floyd County DHS	1206 S Main Street	Charles City	50616
Hamilton	Hamilton County DHS	2300 Superior Street	Webster City	50595
Harrison	Harrison County DHS	204 E 6th St	Logan	51546
Henry	Henry County DHS	205 W Madison Street	Mt. Pleasant	52641
Jasper	Jasper County DHS	115 N 2nd Ave E. Suite H	Newton	50208
Jefferson	Jefferson County DHS	304 South Maple	Fairfield	52556
Johnson	Johnson County DHS	855 S. Dubuque Street	Iowa City	52240
Lee	Lee County DHS	933 Avenue H	Ft. Madison	52627
Lee	Lee County DHS	307 Bank Street	Keokuk	52632
Linn	Linn County DHS	411 3rd Street SE, Suite 600	Cedar Rapids	52401
Linn	Linn County DHS, Harambee House	404 17th Street Southeast	Cedar Rapids	52403
Mahaska	Mahaska County DHS	410 S 11th Street	Oskaloosa	52577
Marshall	Marshall County DHS	206 W State Street	Marshalltown	50158
Montgomery	Montgomery County DHS	1109 Highland Ave	Red Oak	51566
Muscatine	Muscatine County DHS	3210 Harmony Lane	Muscatine	52653

County	Building Name	Building Address	City	Zip
O'Brien	O'Brien County DHS	160 Second Street Se	Primghar	51245
Polk	Polk County DHS	Polk County River Place, 2309 Euclid Ave	Des Moines	50310
Polk	Polk County DHS- Carpenter Office	1900-1914 Carpenter	Des Moines	50314
Polk	Centralized Service Intake Unit	401 SW 7th St, Suite G	Des Moines	50309
Pottawattamie	Pottawattamie County DHS	417 E Kanesville Blvd.	Council Bluffs	51503
Pottawattamie	Income Maintenance Customer Call Center	300 W Broadway, Suite 110	Council Bluffs	51503
Scott	Scott County DHS	600 W. 4th St. 2nd & 3rd Floors	Davenport	52801
Sioux	Sioux County DHS	215 Central Ave. Se	Orange City	50141
Story	Story County DHS	126 S Kellogg Ave, Suite 101	Ames	50010
Union	Union County DHS (SVC)	304 N Pine St	Creston	50801
Union	Union County DHS	300 N Pine St	Creston	50801
Wapello	Wapello County DHS	120 E Main St	Ottumwa	52501
Warren	Warren County DHS	1005 South Jefferson Way	Indianola	50125
Webster	Webster County DHS	330 1st Ave. N	Fort Dodge	50501
Winneshiek	Winneshiek County DHS	2307 US Highway 52 South	Decorah	52101
Woodbury	Woodbury County DHS	Trosper-Hoyt Co Svc Bld., 822 Douglas St	Sioux City	51101

## **Attachment B – Tribal Notice**

### **NOTICE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TRIBAL COMMENT PERIOD TO AMEND IOWA'S 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVER**

Notice is hereby given to all federally recognized tribes, Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations within the State of Iowa that the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) will be submitting a request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to amend the §1115 Iowa Demonstration Waiver to implement changes to the effective date for Medicaid benefits effective October 1, 2017. This notice provides a summary of the purpose of the proposed change and describes the method for providing comments and questions.

#### **AMENDMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

Effective for new applications filed on or after October 1, 2017, the State will eliminate the provision of three months of retroactive benefits for all Iowa Medicaid eligibility groups currently receiving retroactive coverage. On October 1, 2017, the State will implement a policy whereby these applicants' Medicaid coverage will be effective on the first day of the month in which the application for Medicaid was filed or as otherwise allowed by the State Plan. This change in policy is consistent with Iowa House File 653 (2017).

This revision will more closely align Medicaid policy with that of the commercial market, which does not allow for an individual to apply for retroactive health insurance coverage. Eliminating Medicaid retroactivity encourages individuals to obtain and maintain health insurance coverage, even when healthy. With the availability of Medicaid expansion and premium tax credits, affordable coverage options have been available in Iowa for those complying with the individual mandate, thus eliminating the need for retroactive coverage. Further, by more closely aligning Iowa Medicaid policy with policy in the commercial market, members will be better prepared if they are eventually able to transition to commercial health insurance.

The State will continue to operate its presumptive eligibility (PE) program to provide Medicaid for a limited time while the formal Medicaid eligibility determination is being made by the DHS. The PE program will continue to offer immediate coverage to individuals likely to be Medicaid eligible before there has been a full Medicaid determination. Members of the following groups may be eligible under PE: children under 19; pregnant women; parents and caretakers of children under 19; individuals ages 19-64 (IHAWP); former foster care children under age 26; and, individuals screened and diagnosed through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) and needing treatment for breast or cervical cancer. PE will continue to ensure that members determined presumptively eligible are able to immediately access necessary health services.

While the State seeks to eliminate the three-month retroactive benefits policy, it is not seeking to eliminate retroactive coverage of benefits in its entirety. Individuals will continue to receive coverage effective with the first day of the month in which their Medicaid application was filed or as otherwise allowed by the State Plan. This will ensure that individuals are not unintentionally penalized if application processing is delayed by no fault of the applicant. Additionally, the policy will apply to new applications or new add-on requests only. For members submitting a renewal, the State will continue to provide a 90-day reconsideration period.

#### **TRIBAL IMPACT**

This program change will impact all Iowa Medicaid eligibility groups currently receiving three (3) months of retroactive Medicaid coverage, including American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) enrollees. AI/AN enrollees in these groups will receive Medicaid coverage effective on the first day of the month in which the application for Medicaid was filed or as otherwise allowed by the State Plan.

## **REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS & SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS**

All information regarding the DWP amendment, including the public notice, the waiver amendment, and other documentation regarding the proposal are available at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/public-notices>.

Written comments may be addressed to Anna Ruggle, Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, 100 Army Post Road, Des Moines, IA 50315. Comments may also be sent via electronic mail to [aruggle@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:aruggle@dhs.state.ia.us). Additionally, DHS would be happy to schedule a phone or in-person consultation to discuss the DWP amendment in further detail.

All comments must be received by July 27, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Mikki Stier, Medicaid Director  
Iowa Medicaid Enterprise  
Iowa Department of Human Services