

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



Kristin Thorn
Medicaid Director
Office of Medicaid
Department of Health and Human Services
1 Ashburn Place, 11th Floor, Room 1109
Boston, MA 02108

MAR 3 1 2014

Dear Ms. Thorn:

This letter is in response to Massachusetts' February 10, 2014 requests related to extending additional transition support beyond March 31, 2014, via its current MassHealth demonstration (project number 11-W-00030/1) under section 1115 of the Social Security Act (the Act), for beneficiaries who are not able to receive a full eligibility determination for MassHealth or Marketplace coverage due to eligibility system issues. Specifically, your requests to extend the CommCare orderly closeout Designated State Health Program (DSHP) and Transitional Fee for Service (FFS) Coverage DSHP through June 30, 2014 are approved. These strategies should help to ensure no delays or gaps in coverage for eligible individuals as the state continues to fix and develop its eligibility system.

First, we are approving Massachusetts' request to extend the 1115(a)(2) expenditure authority effective for costs incurred for the period April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014 by a state-funded program for an orderly closeout of the Commonwealth Care premium assistance program, as described in Attachment E, Chart A, line 7b of the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs).

Second, we are approving Massachusetts' request to extend 1115(a)(2) expenditure authority effective for costs incurred for the period April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014, by a state-funded program to ensure temporary (FFS) State operated coverage for individuals who are not able to receive a full eligibility determination for MassHealth or Marketplace coverage, approved on December 30, 2013.

The extension of these expenditure authorities will help the Commonwealth to ensure there are no delays or gaps in coverage while processing applications, including Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) eligibility determinations, via a manual process until such time that its electronic eligibility system is fully operational. This short-term coverage will enable such individuals to make an orderly transition to the appropriate coverage option.

The Commonwealth assures that no federal funds will be claimed for state transition program expenditures for individuals whose enrollment in other coverage options has become effective or whose income is ultimately found to be higher than 400 percent of the federal poverty level

(FPL) and are not eligible for MassHealth coverage during the period the expenditure authorities are in effect.

Lastly, we note our agreement that existing demonstration authorities permit Massachusetts to automatically transition CommCare beneficiaries to its interim ConnectorCare program until the member receives a final Marketplace eligibility determination. As of the effective date of the QHP coverage, the state will provide ConnectorCare premium assistance for that QHP coverage in accordance with STC 49(b) and STC 68. The state assures that there will be no overlap of federal funds for this process.

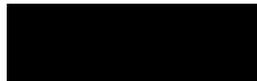
In addition, the Commonwealth assures that it will take all steps possible, including adding resources to manually process applications, to ensure a full and accurate eligibility determination as quickly as possible and will provide bi-weekly enrollment data to CMS. Massachusetts also assures that its reconciliation process for the state transition program is auditable. Finally, the Commonwealth will count these state transition expenditures as part of its with waiver expenditures in future budget neutrality worksheet submissions.

The authorities provided in this demonstration award are subject to CMS receiving your written acknowledgement of this approval and acceptance of these new authorities within 30 days of the date of this letter.

The Commonwealth's existing approved STCs, waivers, and expenditure authorities for the demonstration in all other respects remain unchanged, and in effect.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff. If you have questions regarding this award, please contact Mr. Eliot Fishman, Director, Children and Adults Health Programs Group, Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services, at (410) 786-5647.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Cindy Mann
Director

cc:
Rich McGreal, ARA, Boston Regional Office