

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



MAR 31 2014

John W. Polanowicz  
Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109  
Boston, MA 23244-1840

Dear Secretary Polanowicz:

This letter is in response to Massachusetts' request dated February 10, 2014, as clarified through subsequent telephone conversations and e-mail correspondence with CMS staff, for a waiver under section 1902(e)(14)(A) of the Social Security Act (Act) to assist the state as it implements the Medicaid changes resulting from the Affordable Care Act. Your request to extend the Provisional Eligibility period for applicants with verification inconsistencies, in accordance with 42 CFR 435.940 through 42 CFR 435.960 is approved. This strategy will help Massachusetts achieve a more streamlined eligibility determination process, protect beneficiaries, and provide a timely path to coverage for individuals eligible for Medicaid in 2014, as it continues to address, functionality issues in its new eligibility system, the Health Insurance Exchange (HIX). The specific waiver authorities granted in this letter are specified below.

In response to your recent request, we are providing Massachusetts with additional authority under section 1902(e)(14)(A) of the Act to extend the provisional eligibility period for an additional 90 days for individuals who apply for coverage by June 30, 2014 only.

The authority granted in this letter is provided to the extent to which the Commonwealth requires additional time to address defects and, build/test critical functionalities in the HIX as well as the contingency planning tools relied upon pending completion of the HIX. This approval is contingent upon regular updates from the Commonwealth on the status of HIX systems development and capacity. The Commonwealth is expected to develop the necessary HIX functionalities and capacity needed to use the new HIX system for ongoing eligibility determinations, to process reported changes in circumstances and to perform eligibility renewals as expeditiously as possible. If the Commonwealth is able to perform such functionalities with respect to beneficiaries affected by the authority granted in this letter at an earlier date than contemplated in this letter, the Commonwealth will do so.

The authority provided in this letter is 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.

Congratulations on this approval. We look forward to our continuing work together to achieve successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act. If you have questions regarding this award,

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please contact Ms. Anne Marie Costello, Deputy Director for Policy, Children and Adults Health Programs Group, Centers for Medicaid & CHIP Services, at (410) 786-5647.

Sincerely,



Cindy Mann  
Director

cc: Richard R. McGreal, Associate Regional Administrator, Region I