



GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO

Departamento de Salud

November 10, 2017

Mr. Michael Meléndez
Associate Regional Administrator
Division of Medicaid and
Children's Health Operations
26 Federal Plaza, Room 37-100 North
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Meléndez:

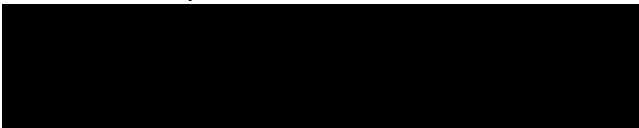
As you are aware, this past month of September Puerto Rico was hit by the dual hurricanes events of Irma and María. Hurricane María devastated Puerto Rico leaving several thousand individuals homeless. Consequently, the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares, has requested to seek expenditure authority under an 1115 waiver in order to respond to the public health emergency caused to the United States citizens living in Puerto Ric

The expenditure authority we specifically seek would exclusively cover individuals who are eligible for the FEMA TSA Program who will be temporarily relocated to the states of New York or Florida. The homeless populations we seek to cover are those currently living at the medical and/or congregate shelters that enjoy Medicaid benefits already or are now eligible to the program. The expending authority would extend Puerto Rico's Medicaid benefits under MiSalud, by allowing off-island medical coverage to these beneficiaries.

We understand this authorization is prospective in nature and does not extend to those individuals who have moved from Puerto Rico voluntarily or would do so voluntarily in the future.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request and thank you in advance for an expeditious approval.

Sincerely,


Rafael Rodríguez Mercado, MD
Secretary of Health
Government of Puerto Rico