

Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification

CMCS Informational Bulletin

DATE: March 16, 2012

FROM: Cindy Mann, Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

SUBJECT: **Affordable Care Act – Medicaid/CHIP Eligibility Final Rule**

We are pleased to announce that today, CMS put on display at the Federal Register, final regulations implementing the provisions of the Affordable Care Act related to eligibility and enrollment for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Following the issuance of the proposed rule on August 17, 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) participated in listening sessions across the country to hear comments and suggestions from a diverse array of stakeholders. In addition, CMS held a national eligibility conference for States and other stakeholders and conducted numerous conference calls and webinars to solicit public input. We received over 800 comments on the proposed rule.

While the final rule maintains much of the framework laid out in the proposed rule, it also includes improvements recommended by States, consumer organizations, and the health care provider community. The final rule provides additional protections for consumers, as well as additional flexibilities and options for States. The rule can be accessed today on display at the Federal Register website at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/03/23/2012-06560/eligibility-changes-under-the-affordable-care-act-medicare-program>. The formal publication date will be March 23, 2012. In addition, all of our materials related to the final regulation are available on our Medicaid.gov website on the Affordable Care Act [Medicaid Eligibility](#) page:

- Fact Sheet: [Assuring Access to Affordable Coverage: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program Final Rule](#)
- Section-by-Section Summary: [Comparison of the Medicaid Eligibility NPRM to the Final Rule](#)
- [Press Release](#)

Webinar Series

In an effort to provide additional information about this final rule, CMCS will be hosting a series of webinars over the next several weeks that will focus on specific topics covered in the regulation. The schedule for these 90-minute webinars is below:

- March 22, 2012, 1:30 p.m. EST: Overview of the Final Rule

- March 29, 3:00 p.m. EST: MAGI methods and Household Scenarios
- April 5, 3:00 p.m. EST: Coordination across Medicaid, CHIP, and Affordable Insurance Exchanges
- April 19, 3:00 p.m. EST: Application and Verification process, and ensuring accessibility for individuals with disabilities and those who are limited English proficient
- April 26, 3:00 p.m. EST: MAGI Screening and Renewals
- May 10, 3:00 p.m. EST: Eligibility Final Rule Wrap-up

Announcements for each webinar along with registration information will be circulated in advance of the event.

We hope you will find this information helpful. We look forward to our continuing work with States and all of our partners in implementing the Affordable Care Act.