

Example of CHIP Evergreen Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment

Updated March 2022

States have the option to submit an Evergreen CHIP Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment (SPA). The provisions within the SPA can be implemented during future state or federally-declared disasters by notifying CMS of the effective dates of the provisions and areas impacted by the disaster. States wishing to utilize this option under their CHIP State plan will need to complete the following sections of the CHIP State plan template. Example text is included below. Please only complete the sections that are applicable to the state. For example, if the state does not implement any premiums or cost sharing, the state does not need to complete section 8. Please also note that Tribal Consultation must be completed in accordance with the state's approved Tribal Consultation policy, prior to submission of the SPA to CMS. CHIP Project Officers are available to provide technical assistance in the development of the SPA.

- 1.4** Provide the effective (date costs begin to be incurred) and implementation (date services begin to be provided) dates for this SPA (42 CFR 457.65). A SPA may only have one effective date, but provisions within the SPA may have different implementation dates that must be after the effective date.

SPA number: ST-YR-XXXX-XXXX

Purpose of SPA: To implement provisions for temporary adjustments to enrollment and redetermination policies and cost sharing requirements for children in families living and/or working in state or federally-declared disaster areas. In the event of a disaster, the state will notify CMS that it intends to provide temporary adjustments to its enrollment and/or redetermination policies and cost sharing requirements, the effective and duration date of such adjustments, and the applicable state or federally-declared disaster areas.

Proposed effective date: MM-DD-YYYY

Proposed implementation date: MM-DD-YYYY

- 1.4-TC** **Tribal Consultation.** (Section 2107(e)(1)(C)) Describe the consultation process that occurred specifically for the development and submission of this State Plan Amendment, when it occurred and who was involved.

- 4.3** **Methodology.** Describe the methods of establishing and continuing eligibility and enrollment. The description should address the procedures for applying the eligibility standards, the organization and infrastructure responsible for making and reviewing eligibility determinations, and the process for enrollment of individuals receiving covered services, and whether the State uses the same application form for Medicaid and/or other public benefit programs. (Section 2102)(b)(2)) (42CFR, 457.350).

During a state or federally-declared disaster and at the state's discretion, the state may implement the following changes to its enrollment and redetermination policies for beneficiaries living and/or working in state or federally-declared disaster areas:

- The state will temporarily use the regulatory timeliness exception for timely processing of CHIP applications under 42 CFR 457.340(d)(1).
- The state will temporarily use the regulatory timeliness exception for timely processing of CHIP renewals under 42 CFR 457.340(d)(1).
- The state will temporarily waive the 90-day waiting period for applicants.
- The state will temporarily delay acting on certain changes in circumstances for CHIP beneficiaries whom the state determines are impacted by the state or federally-declared disaster such that processing the change in a timely manner is not feasible. The state will continue to act on the required changes in circumstance discussed in 42 CFR 457.342(a) cross-referencing 42 CFR 435.926(d).

8.2. Describe the amount of cost-sharing, any sliding scale based on income, the group or groups of enrollees that may be subject to the charge by age and income (if applicable) and the service for which the charge is imposed or time period for the charge, as appropriate (Section 2103(e)(1)(A)) (42CFR 457.505(a), 457.510(b) &(c), 457.515(a)&(c)).

8.2.1. Premiums:

During a state or federally-declared disaster and at the state's discretion, the state may waive premiums for CHIP applicants and/or beneficiaries who reside and/or work in state or federally-declared disaster areas.

8.2.3 Coinsurance or Copayments:

During a state or federally-declared disaster and at the state's discretion, the state may waive coinsurance or copayments for CHIP beneficiaries who reside and/or work in state or federally-declared disaster areas.

8.7 Provide a description of the consequences for an enrollee or applicant who does not pay a charge (42CFR 457.570 and 457.505(c)).

Exception to Disenrollment for Failure to Pay Premiums: During a state or federally-declared disaster and at the state's discretion, as stated in Section 8.2.1, the state may waive premiums for CHIP applicants and/or beneficiaries who reside and/or work in state or federally-declared disaster areas. Therefore, the state will not disenroll beneficiaries for failure to pay premiums. Additionally, the state may waive any unpaid premium balance and waive the premium lock-out period for CHIP beneficiaries who reside and/or work in state or federally-declared disaster areas.