

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-25-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



State Demonstrations Group

November 9, 2023

Lynnette R. Rhodes, Esq.
Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans
Georgia Department of Community Health
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 36th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3159

Dear Executive Director Rhodes:

This letter is to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved a temporary extension of the state's existing COVID-19 authorities, under the state's demonstration titled "Georgia Planning for Healthy Babies" (Project Number 11-W00249/4), to allow the state to reimburse personal care services rendered by legally responsible individuals (which could be inclusive of legally responsible family caregivers) for medically fragile individuals under age 21 years of age, who meet medical necessity for personal support services, provided that the state makes a reasonable assessment that the caregiver is capable of rendering such services. The temporary extension will allow the state and CMS to continue negotiations over the request submitted on November 9, 2023, which requested to make this COVID authority a long-term component of the demonstration. The COVID-19 authority will now expire March 31, 2024.

CMS's approval is conditioned upon the state's continued compliance with the special terms and conditions (STCs) defining the nature, character, and extent of anticipated federal involvement in the project. The current STCs, attachments, and waiver and expenditure authorities, will continue to apply during the temporary extension of this authority.

For this temporary extension period, the state must continue to monitor and evaluate its COVID-19 authorities as stipulated in Attachment D of the STCs. Specifically, the state is required to submit a Final Report consolidating the monitoring and evaluation reporting requirements for the COVID-19 authorities, due to CMS no later than one year after the end of the temporary extension approval period. If you have any questions, please contact your project officer, Ms. Wanda Boone-Massey at Wanda.Boone-Massey@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Mehreen H. Rashid
Acting Director

cc: Etta Hawkins, State Monitoring Lead, CMS Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group