

December 10, 2024

Daniel Tsai Deputy Administrator and Director Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-25-26 Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Deputy Administrator and Director Tsai,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and our state Medicaid program, I am pleased to accept the amendment awarded on November 14, 2024 to the "Medicaid Coverage Former Foster Care Youth from a Different State & Substance Use Disorder (SUD)" section 1115 demonstration (Project Number 11-W-00308/3), in accordance with section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act (the "Act").

This expenditure authority will create the opportunity for Pennsylvania to provide multi-year continuous eligibility for children up to age six which will create opportunities for a healthy start and strong foundation for early childhood development. Multi-year continuous eligibility can close coverage gaps, reduce churn and improve health outcomes at a critical stage in life. In addition, the expenditure authority creates the opportunity for Pennsylvania to provide 12 months of continuous eligibility for citizens returning to their communities from our state correctional institutions to improve health outcomes during this critical life transition. We seek to combine this authority with a broader reentry initiative which we are hopeful for CMS approval soon.

We are eager to continue discussions on the other elements of our pending new demonstration request, "Bridges to Success: Keystones of Health for Pennsylvania." This demonstration would bring new tools to our state Medicaid program to address health-related social needs that have a large impact on health care spending and health outcomes.

We look forward to partnering on this transformation work to improve health outcomes and quality of life of Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely, Sally A. Kozak, MHA, RN

State Medicaid Director