

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



Disabled & Elderly Health Programs Group

August 23, 2019

Ms. Stephanie Azar
Commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency
State of Alabama, Alabama Medicaid Agency
501 Dexter Avenue, PO Box 5624
Montgomery, AL 36103-5624

Dear Ms. Azar:

I am writing to inform you that CMS is granting Alabama approval of its electronic visit verification (EVV) good faith effort exemption request. CMS has determined that your state's request is in accordance with section 1903(1)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 12006(a) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act). Specifically, your state has made a good faith effort to comply with EVV requirements by conducting environmental scanning, selecting its EVV model, and updating its current EVV system to meet the needs of participants self-directing their services. The state has also conducted several stakeholder engagement activities, including conducting EVV informational sessions for case managers, recipients, and families, notifying personal care provider agencies of pending EVV system implementation, disseminating Frequently Asked Questions, and maintaining an EVV website.

In addition, your state has encountered unavoidable delays when implementing its EVV system, specifically system informational technology issues experienced during the initial roll-out of EVV. This resulted in additional time needed to tailor the EVV software for each program and prompted the state to engage in more extensive training and testing prior to implementing EVV for self-directed personal care services.

Because your state has sufficiently demonstrated it has made a good faith effort to comply with EVV requirements and has encountered unavoidable delays, CMS will not apply federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) reductions in calendar year 2020. Please be advised that the Cures Act provision on good faith effort exemptions does not provide CMS with authority to delay the FMAP reductions for more than one year. If you have any questions please email EVV@cms.hhs.gov or contact your CMS Regional Office.

Sincerely,

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Ralph F. Lollar, Director
Division of Long Term Services and Supports