

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**

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August 23, 2019

Mr. Michael Randol  
Medicaid Director  
Iowa Department of Human Services  
100 Army Post Road  
Des Moines, IA 50315

Dear Mr. Randol:

I am writing to inform you that CMS is granting Iowa 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act (Cures Act). Specifically, your state has made a good faith effort to comply with EVV requirements by conducting a provider survey, selecting an EVV model, and preparing to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an EVV vendor. The state has also conducted several stakeholder engagement activities, including convening stakeholder meetings, inviting member advocacy and provider associations to participate in stakeholder activities, maintaining an EVV website, and fielding stakeholder questions via email and Medicaid call centers.

In addition, your state has encountered unavoidable delays when implementing its EVV system, specifically that funds will not be available in state fiscal year 2020 (July 2019 – June 2020) for EVV due to multiple existing technology investments for projects currently being implemented (e.g., modernization of the Medicaid Management Information System, changes to how the self-direction program is paid, etc.). The state also cited the transition of one managed care organization leaving and another entering the Medicaid market as a cause for delay.

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](mailto: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