

## NOTICE OF INTENT

### Department of Health Bureau of Health Services Financing

#### Medicaid Eligibility Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act Option for Lawfully Resident Children (LAC 50:III.2329 and 2523)

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to adopt LAC 50:III.2329 and to repromulgate the provisions of the June 20, 1998 Rule governing Medicaid Eligibility for non-citizens in order to adopt this Rule into LAC 50:III.2523, pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This proposed Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R. S. 49:950 et seq.

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing promulgated a Rule which adopted provisions to provide regular Medicaid coverage to optional qualified aliens (hereafter referred to as "qualified non-citizens"), who were in the United States prior to August 22, 1996, who meet all eligibility criteria and requiring a five-year waiting period for qualified non-citizens, entering the United States on or after August 22, 1996 (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 24, Number 6).

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009 provides states with the option to eliminate the five-year waiting period and provide coverage under the

Medical Assistance Program to a new eligibility group consisting of children up to age 19 who are lawfully residing in the United States, and for which an enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) rate is available.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing hereby amends the provisions governing Medicaid eligibility to adopt the CHIPRA option which will eliminate the five-year waiting period and provide coverage to lawfully residing children. This proposed Rule will also repromulgate the provisions of the June 20, 1998 Rule governing Medicaid eligibility for qualified non-citizens to ensure that these provisions are promulgated in the *Louisiana Administrative Code* in a clear and concise manner.

## **Title 50**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **Part III. Eligibility**

#### **Subpart 3. Eligibility Groups and Factors**

#### **Chapter 23. Eligibility Groups and Medicaid Programs**

##### **§2329. Lawfully Resident Children**

A. The Children's Health Insurance Program  
Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009, Public Law No. 111-3,  
established provisions which allow states the option of  
providing Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program  
(CHIP) coverage to children up to age 19 who are lawfully  
residing in the United States, including those within their  
first five years of having certain legal status.

B. The Department shall utilize the CHIPRA Option under P.L. 111-3 provisions for the enrollment of children, up to age 19, who are lawfully residing in the United States.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 45:

## **Chapter 25. Eligibility Factors**

### **§2523. Citizenship**

#### A. Qualified Non-Citizens

1. The Department hereby adopts criteria for the coverage of qualified non-citizens pursuant to the provisions of §401 of the Personal and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) as amended by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-33).

2. The Department elects to provide regular Medicaid coverage to optional qualified non-citizens who were in the United States prior to August 22, 1996, who meet all eligibility criteria.

3. Qualified non-citizens entering the United States on or after August 22, 1996 are not eligible for Medicaid coverage for five years after entry into the United States.

a. Such qualified non-citizens are eligible for emergency services only.

b. Upon expiration of the five-year period, coverage for regular Medicaid services shall be considered if the qualified non-citizen meets all eligibility criteria.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 45:

Implementation of the provisions of this Rule may be contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if it is determined that submission to CMS for review and approval is required.

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed Rule on the family has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule may have a positive impact on family functioning, stability and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972 as it eliminates the waiting period for coverage for lawfully residing children who meet eligibility criteria.

In compliance with Act 854 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the poverty impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule may have a positive impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973 as it reduces the financial burden on families with lawfully residing children in need of healthcare services by eliminating the waiting period for coverage.

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the provider impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service and no direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service. These provisions will have no impact on the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170.

Interested persons may submit written comments to Jen Steele, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030 or by email to [MedicaidPolicy@la.gov](mailto:MedicaidPolicy@la.gov). Ms. Steele is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. A public hearing on this proposed Rule is scheduled for Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 118, Bienville Building, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. At that time all interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views or arguments either orally or in writing. The deadline for receipt of all written comments is 4:30 p.m. on the next business day following the public hearing

Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH

Secretary