

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850



**Children and Adults Health Programs Group**

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August 27, 2025

Kimberly Sullivan, J.D.  
Medicaid Executive Director  
State of Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing  
628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 769  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Director Sullivan:

Thank you for your Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendment (SPA) LA-25-0005-A submitted on June 30, 2025. This SPA proposes to demonstrate compliance with section 5121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023) by modifying CHIP eligibility requirements for the treatment of incarcerated youth and providing pre-release services to eligible juveniles.

As you are aware, your SPA has been undergoing review by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). In order to proceed with our review, we find it necessary to seek additional information on your SPA related to sections 2102(d) and 2110(b)(7) of the Social Security Act (the Act).

Under section 2106(c) of the Act, CMS must approve, disapprove, or request additional information on a proposed amendment to a title XXI state plan within 90 days. This letter constitutes our notification that specified additional information is needed in order to fully assess this amendment. The 90-day review period has been stopped by this request and will resume as soon as a complete and substantive response is received to all of the concerns listed above as well as the questions listed below.

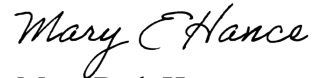
Your Project Officer is Abbie Walsh. She is available to answer your questions and other CHIP-related matters. Abbie's contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
Telephone: (410) 786-0746  
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We appreciate the efforts of your staff and share your goal of providing quality health care to low-income, uninsured children through title XXI. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Beth Hance".

Mary Beth Hance

Acting Director

Division of State Coverage Programs

### Louisiana CHIP 5121 SPA RAI Questions

Thank you for providing responses and clarifying that the state has fully implemented both the 5121 pre-release services and CHIP eligibility requirements effective July 1, 2025.

1. Based on the state's responses, there are some limitations to providing the mandatory 5121 pre-release services prior to release in the non-state facilities who have decided to not participate. Please include the following language, as applicable, to Section 4.1.9.3:

*The state will maintain clear documentation in its internal operational plan indicating which carceral facility/facilities are furnishing required services during the pre-release period but not enrolling in or billing CHIP. This information is available to CMS upon request.*

*The state may determine that it is not feasible to provide the required services during the prerelease period in certain carceral facilities (e.g., identified local jails, youth correctional facilities, and state prisons) and/or certain circumstances (e.g., unexpected release or short-term stays). The state will maintain clear documentation in its internal operational plan regarding each facility and/or circumstances where the state determines that it is not feasible to provide for the required services during the pre-release period. This information is available to CMS upon request. Services will be provided post-release, including the mandatory screening, and diagnostic services, and case management services consistent with coverage otherwise available under the CHIP state plan.*

2. Medicaid is required to provide targeted case management (TCM) benefit, but CHIP is only required to provide case management that is currently available under the CHIP state plan. However, if the state wants to implement TCM to align with Medicaid, the state may do so by indicating in its CHIP state plan that it is in alignment with Medicaid. For example, the state could add the following language, though we defer to the state to accurately describe the TCM benefit (if provided):

*Targeted case management services are available to eligible juveniles up to 19 years of age who are determined eligible for CHIP as a targeted low-income child immediately before becoming an inmate of a public institution or while an inmate of a public institution. The case managers provide services that are identical to Medicaid as defined in 42 CFR 440.169.*

3. In response to the state's answer to question 7 in the questions sent on July 18, 2025, we understand that the state will accept and process Medicaid and CHIP applications for incarcerated youth at any point during their carceral stay. Children who are not within the 30 days prior to release period remain subject to a CHIP eligibility exclusion, due to being inmates of a public institution. For our understanding, how is the state processing applications that are received for children outside of the 30-day period?

4. The state did not include the below assurance in the state plan. Can the state please confirm if they are able to attest to this assurance, and if so, please include in Section 4.1.9.3? Please note that this assurance will also be included as part of the finalized CS31 template when it becomes available.

*Children applying for coverage who are within 30 days prior to their release and are found eligible for CHIP are provided screenings, diagnostic services, and case management services that are otherwise available under the CHIP state plan (or waiver of such plan).*

5. Thank you for clarifying that incarcerated youth who are in a suspended status and incarcerated youth who are newly enrolled in CHIP are exempt from paying premiums.

- a. Please describe when the requirement to pay premiums is reinstated.
- b. Please include the following language at Section 8.2.1 to describe this policy:

*For eligible incarcerated youth, premiums are waived during the duration of their carceral stay. Premiums will be required (describe policy).*

- c. Please update Section 8.7 to reflect the new policy. Suggested language is included below, although we defer to the state to accurately describe the policy:

*Applicants will not be enrolled in LaCHIP Phase V until they pay for the first month's premium, unless they are currently incarcerated and newly enrolling in CHIP.*