

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR



Bruce D. Greenstein
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of the Secretary

March 11, 2026

Courtney Miller, Director
CMS/Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services
Medicaid & CHIP Operations Group
601 East 12th Street, Room 355
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

RE: Louisiana Title XXI State Plan
Transmittal No. 26-0003

Dear Ms. Miller:

The purpose of the SPA is to amend the provisions governing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in order to utilize the health services initiative (HSI) option as defined at 42 CFR 457.10, to support the health of economically disadvantaged children while keeping them in school by providing care coordination, mental and behavioral health services, chronic condition management, school nurse services, health care screenings and education, as well as other health care needs at school and in the community.

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed Louisiana Title XXI State Plan material.

I recommend this material for adoption and inclusion in the body of the State Plan. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Marjorie Jenkins at (225) 342-3881 or via email at Marjorie.Jenkins@la.gov.

Tribal notification around this State Plan action was issued to the Tribes on January 29, 2026, with the comment period ending on February 28, 2026.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Drew Maranto

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Drew Maranto, designee for Bruce D. Greenstein
Undersecretary

Attachments (2)

DM:KF

Amendment 35

LA SPA TN 25-0005-A

CHIP – Services to Incarcerated Youth

Pursuant to the services for incarcerated youth requirements described in section 5121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, this SPA implements required coverage for incarcerated youth in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

Implementation date: January 1, 2025

Amendment 38

LA SPA TN 25-0022

CHIP – Federally-Facilitated Marketplace Assessments

The purpose of this SPA is to amend the provisions governing CHIP eligibility determinations, to transition from a Federally-Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) Determination state whereas the state delegated authority to the FFM to make final eligibility decisions, to an FFM Assessment state whereas the FFM makes a preliminary assessment of eligibility and the State makes the final decision.

Effective Date: October 1, 2025

Implementation date: October 1, 2025

Amendment 39

LA SPA TN 26-0003

CHIP – Health Services Initiative

The purpose of this SPA is to utilize the health services initiative option as defined at 42 CFR 457.10, to support the health of economically disadvantaged children while keeping them in school by providing care coordination, mental and behavioral health services, chronic condition management, school nurse services, health care screenings and education, as well as other health care needs at school and in the community.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Implementation date: July 1, 2026

1.4- TC

Tribal Consultation (Section 2107(e)(1)(C)) Describe the consultation process that occurred specifically for the development and submission of this State Plan Amendment, when it occurred and who was involved.

On January 29, 2026, notification was sent to the tribes around the State’s intent to seek approval from CMS to utilize the health services initiative option as defined at 42 CFR 457.10, to support the health of economically disadvantaged children while keeping them in school by providing care coordination, mental and behavioral health services, chronic condition management, school nurse services, health care screenings and education, as well as other health care needs at school and in the community, was submitted to the tribes. The comment period for the tribal notification ended February 28, 2026.

TN 26-0003

Approval Date: _____

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

In the event of a state or federally declared disaster or public health emergency, the State may modify the tribal consultation process by shortening the number of days before submission of the SPA and/or conducting consultation after submission of the SPA. The duration of the provisions may not exceed the duration of the state or federal disaster period.

LOUISIANA TITLE XXI STATE PLAN

Student Wellness Project

As permitted under section 2105(a)(1)(D)(ii) of the Social Security Act and federal regulations at 42 CFR 457.10, et. sec., the Student Wellness Project will use CHIP funding for a health services initiative (HSI), within the 10 percent federal administrative expenditures cap allowed for states, in accordance with 2105(c)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act. The Student Wellness Project aims to improve the health and wellbeing of economically disadvantaged children in Louisiana by increasing access to behavioral health care and supporting school-based health services. These services will be delivered both in-school, virtually, and in the community, covering mental health and behavioral health services, chronic condition management, care coordination, health screenings, and providing health education and resources.

Target Population

The Student Wellness Project targets economically disadvantaged children in school, as defined in La. R.S. 17:3882 including, but not limited to, children who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid.

Geographic Scope

The Student Wellness Project currently operates in limited high need, parishes with the ability to expand.

Services provided

Children spend much of their day in school, making it a natural setting to provide access to care. The Student Wellness Project delivers services where children already are, reducing absences and increasing access to necessary care. Since its launch for the 2023-2024 school year, the Student Wellness Project has made an impact on the wellbeing of children and youth, particularly addressing access to health services with a focus on behavioral health.

Health Care Providers

Health services are delivered in schools by credentialed staff appropriate for the service, including but not limited to, registered nurses and social workers.

The State assures that funding under this health services initiative (HSI) will not supplant or match CHIP federal funds with any other federal funds, nor will it allow any other federal funds to supplant or match CHIP federal funds. The non-federal share of the CHIP funding for the student wellness project will be provided to LDH by local units of government in the form of intergovernmental transfer in accordance with procedures specified by LDH. The projected cost of this program is \$13,323,306.

LOUISIANA TITLE XXI STATE PLAN

CHIP Budget

STATE: Louisiana	FFY Budget
Federal Fiscal Year	2026
State's enhanced FMAP rate	77.48%
Benefit Costs	
Insurance payments	0
Managed care	\$938,482,865
<u>per member/per month rate</u>	0
Fee for Service	0
Total Benefit Costs	\$938,482,865
(Offsetting beneficiary cost sharing payments)	\$280,530
Net Benefit Costs	\$938,202,335
Cost of Proposed SPA Changes – Benefit	\$13,323,306
Administration Costs	
Personnel	\$4,459,221
General administration	\$9,107,968
Contractors/Brokers	\$9,105,881
Claims Processing	\$2,681,966
Outreach/marketing costs	0
Health Services Initiatives	\$13,323,306
Other	0
Total Administration Costs	\$27,287,777
10% Administrative Cap	\$52,511,556
Cost of Proposed SPA Changes	\$13,323,306
Federal Share	\$748,061,739
State Share	\$217,428,373
Total Costs of Approved CHIP Plan	\$965,490,112

NOTE: Include the costs associated with the current SPA.

- Amounts above are projections with the Student Wellness Project amount added.
- All amounts above are based on total expenditures. Federal share is 77.48 percent of total.

The Source of State Share Funds: Intergovernmental Transfer