

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**10/28/2013 PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RHODE ISLAND
MEDICAID STATE PLAN**

In accordance Rhode Island General Laws 42-35, notice is hereby given that the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) proposes to make the following amendments to the Rhode Island State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act:

**Changes to Eligibility Standards and Procedures as Provided by the Patient Protection and
Affordable Care Act**

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) provides notice of the filing of nineteen federally required state plan amendments to modify eligibility standards and processes to conform to new requirements set forth in the Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148). CMS directed states to submit these amendments together in order to provide a more comprehensive picture of the state's proposed eligibility framework.

Effective 1 October 2013 the state will use modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) standards to determine income eligibility for some coverage groups. Some of these groups are covered due to federal directive and others are provided Medicaid coverage at the state's option. The proposed income eligibility standards for both mandatory and optional groups are included in six of the proposed state plan amendments. The groups for which the state will be providing coverage are:

- Parents and other caretaker relatives,
- Pregnant women,
- Children under age 19,
- Individuals with income below 133% of the federal poverty level (the expansion population),
- Former foster care children up to age 26,
- Optional targeted low-income children

Within this package of state plan amendments, CMS required the state to specify its manner for determining income, household composition, and family size; all of which are factors used in determining eligibility in multiple groups. Also included are state's methods for counting pregnant women in the household, addressing reasonably predictable changes in income, and treating full time students over age 18.

The state has opted not to cover individuals in the expansion population with income above 133% of the federal poverty level, certain optional parents and caretakers, targeted tuberculosis services, or change the eligibility requirements for family planning services. The state has also elected not to apply the MAGI methodology to independent foster care adolescents under age 21 and children receiving certain types (non IV-E) of adoption assistance. Even though the state has elected not to cover these groups through the Affordable Care Act, people in those categories may still qualify for Medicaid coverage through the 1115 waiver or through State Plan-covered

services. State plan amendments for groups that the state has elected not to cover must still be submitted; there are six amendments addressing this population.

Six other state plan amendments are included in this package. They outline citizenship regulations, residency requirements, the determination of appeals within the single state agency, the new streamlined application, AFDC income standards, and the new MAGI methodology.

The purpose and rationale for these state plan amendments is to conform to federal requirements and exercise newly available state eligibility options.

It is our intention at EOHHS to make this process as transparent and understandable as possible. As such, interested persons are encouraged to submit questions, views, or written comments on the proposed state plan amendments prior to 1 December to Darren J. McDonald, Office of Policy and Innovation, Executive Office of Health and Human Services FL # 1, Louis Pasteur Building, 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920, or to dmcDonald@ohhs.ri.gov.

In accordance with the Rhode Island General Laws 42-35-3, an oral hearing will be granted on the proposed State Plan Amendment if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, or an agency, or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of this notice.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief, or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.