



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
 OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 June 1, 2011

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WVCHIP EXPANSION PLAN SUBMITTED TO CMS FOR APPROVAL

Charleston, W.Va. - The West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (WVCHIP) has submitted for approval **Amendment #10** to its **West Virginia's Title XXI State Plan for the WVCHIP** to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The WVCHIP Board approved participation of children in households with gross incomes to an upper limit of 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) at its February 2011 meeting. These new guidelines will allow those families to have health coverage for their children through monthly premium payments. In addition, children must have been without private group insurance coverage for three months to be eligible.

Currently, a family's gross income (before taxes) must be at or under 250% FPL for WVCHIP eligibility. This expansion phase allows an increase to 300% of the FPL to provide an opportunity for more uninsured children to have health care coverage through WVCHIP.

ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME LIMITS FOR WVCHIP ELIGIBILITY

Family Size	Regular	CHIP with Premium	
	200%FPL	250% FPL (Current Eligibility)	300% FPL (Proposed Limit)
2	\$29,420	\$36,775	\$44,130
3	\$37,060	\$46,325	\$55,590
4	\$44,700	\$55,875	\$67,050
5	\$52,340	\$65,425	\$78,510

Families qualifying for the WVCHIP Premium Plan (201% -300% FPL) will be charged an affordable monthly premium of \$35 per month for one child and \$71 per month for two or more children.

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Total cost of premiums and copayments will not exceed more than 5% of the family's total annual gross income. Enrollees in the premium plan will have access to the same medical coverage as current members. For more information on co-payments and benefits, please visit www.chip.wv.gov.

The application process for the premium plan is the same for all plans. Families may start applying to enroll under the new guidelines on July 1, 2011, but should allow an additional month for enrollment and premium payment processing before accessing services. Families can apply for WVCHIP by calling the toll-free helpline at 1-877-982-2447, at their local DHHR office or by Internet at www.wvinroads.org.

This plan also expands dental coverage to families with incomes above 200% FPL who had previously been limited to preventive dental health services up to a \$150 per year maximum. There are no copayments required for preventive dental services, but some dental treatments may require a \$25 copayment. The amendment also includes an assurance that all mental health services are at parity with other medical services under the plan, and it removes the annual and lifetime maximum benefit amounts from the plan.

Adoption of this change is estimated to provide comprehensive health care coverage to approximately 336 uninsured children of working families during the first year of implementation.

Copies of the full text of the State Plan Amendment will be available at all local DHHR county offices or online at www.chip.wv.gov. Any written comments concerning these changes should be made in writing no later than July 1, 2011 and addressed to: Executive Director, WV Children's Health Insurance Program, 2 Hale Street, Suite 101, Charleston, West Virginia 25301, or you may email your comments to Brenda Jones at Brenda.K.Jones@wv.gov.