

Public Notice

Public Comment Period for State Plan Amendment IA-19-005: Updating the Premium Schedule for Medicaid for Employed People with Disabilities (MEPD) Program

Posted June 28, 2019

The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), pursuant to the requirements outlined in 42 C.F.R. §447.205 and §1902(a)(13)(A) of the Social Security Act, hereby gives notice of the following proposed action regarding updating the premium scale for the Medicaid for Employed People with Disabilities (MEPD) program.

Summary

This amendment proposes to adjust the federal poverty level increments used to assess premiums for applicants and recipients under the MEPD program with income over 150% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

The Department is requesting these changes as Iowa Code section 249A.3(2)(a)(1)(b) requires that “the maximum premium payable by an individual whose income exceeds one hundred fifty percent of the official poverty guidelines shall be commensurate with the cost of state employees' group health insurance in this state.” The average cost to the state for state employees' health insurance for a single person is \$763 effective January 1, 2019. Therefore, the maximum premium must not be above that amount.

DHS seeks an August 1, 2019, effective date for this SPA.

Fiscal Impact

There is no anticipated fiscal impact with this proposed change.

The new premium scale reflects the decrease in the maximum premium allowed to reflect the decrease in the cost of state employees' health insurance by eliminating the current top increment and corresponding premium amount (1,550% FPL and above = \$768 premium). There will be no changes to the other increments or premium amounts.

MEPD eligibility is based upon countable household income of no more than 250% of the FPL for the household size. MEPD premiums are assessed based on gross individual income. Currently, there are no MEPD members with gross individual income higher than 550% of the FPL.

Public Review and Comments

This notice and a copy of SPA 19-005 is posted on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/public-notices/MEPD>. To reach all stakeholders, non-electronic copies will be available for public review at each local DHS office.

Written comments may be addressed to Jennifer Steenblock, Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, 611 Fifth Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309. Comments may also be sent via electronic mail to jsteenb@dhs.state.ia.us. Please indicate SPA 19-005 in the subject line of the email.

All comments must be received by July 29, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

After considering all comments received, DHS will submit SPA IA-19-005 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Submitted by:

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Iowa Medicaid Enterprise