Catalyst Center COVID-19 Resource Series
FLEXIBILITY FOR STATES: MEDICAID AND CHIP PROGRAMS

What Options for Ensuring Access and Coverage Do Separate CHIP Programs Have in a Public Health Emergency?

The goal of this fact sheet is to provide Title V programs and allies with a summary of guidance in clear language in order to build understanding of key financing and coverage provisions during the COVID-19 emergency, support care coordination, benefits and coverage counseling, and aid in reducing the risk of family financial hardship.

In disaster or other emergency situations, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid(CMS) can offer states and territories a number of flexible options that can help them meet the emergency needs of Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) beneficiaries.

States with separate CHIP programs have the option to submit a disaster relief State Plan Amendment (SPA). Some of the flexibilities available to states under this option include:

*   Waiving premiums

*   Waiving cost-sharing

*   Changing application and redetermination policies

*   Changing verification requirements

In addition to the disaster relief SPA, states may use CHIP Health Services Initiative (HSI) for additional COVID-19 related activities that are targeted to low-income children. According to the agency, interested states should consult with CMS regarding the application process and parameters for HSIs.

Visit Medicaid.gov see if your state has a CHIP disaster relief SPA.