



WEEKLY UPDATE – JULY 8, 2010

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ACTION NEEDED

NON-EXPENDABLE PROPERTY (With 1 Attachment)

Just a reminder that the Local Early Steps contract requires certain procedures and reports related to non-expendable property. The procedure is attached. **The required reports were due to your Contract Manager no later than June 30, 2010. If you have not submitted your reports please do so immediately.**

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

NEW FEDERAL WEBSITE FOR THOSE WHO NEED HEALTH INSURANCE

If you know someone who is looking for health insurance you can refer them to the new federal website that went live last week: www.HealthCare.gov.

- a) To find insurance options in your community, on the homepage click “Explore your coverage options.” You can find a list of insurance providers and in a few months added information will allow you to compare costs.
- b) If you have been denied insurance coverage due to a pre-existing health condition and you have been uninsured for at least six months, you may qualify to buy health insurance through the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP). On the homepage click “New Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan.”
- c) Young adults may be able to continue coverage under their parent’s insurance or they may be able to be added back to the parent’s insurance. Under the federal plan this applies until the adult child turns 26 and under Florida regulation this is extended until age 30. To find out more click “Young Adults” on the homepage.
- d) To find information geared to your particular situation, on the right hand side of the homepage you’ll find links for Families with Children, Individuals, People with Disabilities, Seniors, Young Adults, and Employers.
- e) To find a timeline for when various parts of the new law take effect, on the homepage click “Understand the New Law” then click “What’s Changing and When.”

HHS SECRETARY SEBELIUS ANNOUNCES NEW PRE-EXISTING CONDITION INSURANCE PLAN

Florida has elected to use the national plan for pre-existing condition coverage. It takes a while to get through the links. However, you can get information about the plan and the requirements. This is excellent information to share with families who may qualify.

From: Widger, Ann (HHS/IGA)

Date: July 1, 2010 8:26:56 AM EDT

Subject: HHS Secretary Sebelius Announces New Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2010

HHS Secretary Sebelius Announces New Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan

Affordable Care Act Program to Provide Temporary Coverage for Americans Without Insurance Due to Pre-Existing Conditions

Now Through 2014 When the New Insurance Exchanges Are Established

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced today the establishment of a new Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) that will offer coverage to uninsured Americans who have been unable to obtain health coverage because of a pre-existing health condition.

The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, which will be administered either by a state or by the Department of Health and Human Services, will provide a new health coverage option for Americans who have been uninsured for at least six months, have been unable to get health coverage because of a health condition, and are a U.S. citizen or are residing in the United States legally.

Created under the Affordable Care Act, the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan is a transitional program until 2014, when insurers will be banned from discriminating against adults with pre-existing conditions, and individuals and small businesses will have access to more affordable private insurance choices through new competitive Exchanges. In 2014, Members of Congress will also purchase their insurance through Exchanges.

"For too long, Americans with pre-existing conditions have been locked out of our health insurance market," said Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "Today, the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan gives them a new option – the same insurance coverage as a healthy individual if they've been uninsured for at least six months because of a medical condition. This program will provide people the help they need as the nation transitions to a more competitive and fair market place in 2014."

The Affordable Care Act provides \$5 billion in federal funding to support Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plans in every state. Some states have requested that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services run their Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan. Other states have requested that they run the program themselves. For more information about how the plan is being administered where you live, please visit HHS's new consumer website, www.HealthCare.gov.

"Health coverage for Americans with pre-existing conditions has historically been unobtainable or failed to cover the very conditions for which they need medical care," said Jay Angoff, Director of the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (OCIO) which is overseeing the program. "The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan is designed to address these challenges by offering comprehensive coverage at a reasonable cost. We modeled the program on the highly successful Children's Health Insurance Program, also known as CHIP, so states would have maximum flexibility to meet the needs of their citizens."

In order to give states the flexibility to best meet their needs, HHS provided states with the option of running the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan themselves or having HHS run the plan. Twenty-one states have elected to have HHS administer the plans, while 29 states and the District of Columbia have chosen to run their own programs.

Starting today, the national Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan will be open to applicants in the 21 states where HHS is operating the program.

All states which are operating their own Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plans will begin enrollment by the end of the summer, with many beginning enrollment today.

"The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan is an important next step in the overall implementation of the Affordable Care Act," said Richard Popper, Director of Insurance Programs at OCIO. "We

have been working closely with the states and other stakeholders to make sure this program reaches uninsured Americans struggling to find coverage due to a pre-existing condition."

The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan will cover a broad range of health benefits, including primary and specialty care, hospital care, and prescription drugs. The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan does not base eligibility on income and does not charge a higher premium because of a medical condition. Participants will pay a premium that is not more than the standard individual health insurance premium in their state for insurance that covers major medical and prescription drug expenses with some cost-sharing.

Like the popular Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Pre-Existing Condition Plan provides states flexibility in how they run their program as long as basic requirements are met. Federal law establishes general eligibility, but state programs can vary on cost, benefits, and determination of pre-existing condition. Funding for states is based on the same allocation formula as CHIP, and it will be reallocated if unspent by the states. Unlike CHIP, there is no state matching requirement and the federal government will cover the entire cost of the Pre-Existing Condition Plan. While it took more than 6 months for a small number of states to establish their CHIP programs, we anticipate that every state will begin enrolling individuals in the Pre-Existing Condition Plan by the end of August.

Information on how to apply for the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan is available at www.HealthCare.gov. Americans who live in a state where the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is running the Pre-Existing Condition Plan will be linked directly to the federal application page. Those living in states running their own programs will also find information on how and where to apply on www.HealthCare.gov.

To learn more about the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan and options available to residents of your state, visit www.HealthCare.gov.

An informational pamphlet on the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan can be found at: <http://www.healthcare.gov/center/brochures/PCIP.pdf>.

States by Pre-Existing Insurance Plan Administration
21 states elected to have HHS run their plan.

1. Alabama
2. Arizona
3. Delaware
4. Florida
5. Georgia
6. Hawaii
7. Idaho
8. Indiana
9. Kentucky
10. Louisiana
11. Massachusetts
12. Minnesota
13. Mississippi
14. Nebraska
15. Nevada
16. North Dakota

17. South Carolina
18. Tennessee
19. Texas
20. Virginia
21. Wyoming

SUMMER 2010 MEDICAID PROVIDER BULLETIN

Florida Medicaid recently published the Summer 2010 Medicaid Provider Bulletin. The bulletin contains policy clarification and important Florida Medicaid information.

To view the bulletin, please visit <http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid> and click on "Summer 2010 Medicaid Provider Bulletin" under the "What is occurring in Medicaid?" heading.

SERVICE COORDINATION WORKGROUP CONFERENCE CALL (With 3 Attachments)

The next Service Coordination Workgroup Conference Call will be held on Wednesday, July 14 from 12:00 – 2:00. The conference call number is 1-888-808-6959 and the code is 6254120367. The Agenda, the Notes from the last conference call and the final version of the "Transfer of Child Record Documents" are attached. Please join us on the call.

NECTAC NEWS

For the current issue of NECTAC eNotes go to <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>

- Note the first item on Free Web-based Module on Embedded Early Childhood Interventions. This is a fabulous resource for provider training on embedding early intervention into everyday routines.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS/TRAININGS

ONE GOAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

One Goal: Building the Future Together "Putting Families and Children First"
Hyatt Regency, Tampa, Florida
July 21-23, 2010

The One Goal: Building the Future Together "Putting Families and Children First" Conference brings together early education and care providers and leaders from around the state. It is designed to share information on best practices in the field and to build common frameworks of

knowledge and understanding to assist in unified planning for young children and their families. Participants have formal and informal opportunities for learning and sharing and can get continuing education units (CEU).

For more information go to <http://www.onegoalsummerconference.org/home.htm> .

**FOURTH ANNUAL BUILDING BLOCKS FOR BIG BEGINNINGS
CONFERENCE**
(With 1 Attachment)

Building communication, behavior and social skills through play for early education administrators and teachers.

Emerald Coast Conference Center
1250 Miracle Strip Parkway
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
Saturday, August 7, 2010
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

For more information please see the attached registration form for the Building Blocks Conference or at the following link:

<http://www.tats.ucf.edu/Forms/reg/2010August7.html>