

Department of Health & Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
61 Forsyth St., Suite 4T20  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8909



April 14, 2011

RECEIVED

APR 19 2011

Chief's Office  
Medical Assistance Plans

Mr. Jerry Dubberly, Chief  
Medical Assistance Plans  
Georgia Department of Community Health  
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 40<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3159

Re: Georgia Title XIX State Plan Amendment, Transmittal #11-002

Dear Mr. Dubberly:

We have reviewed the proposed Georgia Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) 11-002 that was submitted to the Atlanta Regional Office on February 25, 2011. This State Plan Amendment establishes optional Express Lane Eligibility (ELE) in order to expedite identification and enrollment of uninsured children in Medicaid.

Based on the information provided, we are now ready to approve the Georgia State Plan Amendment 11-002. This SPA was approved on April 13, 2011. The effective date of this amendment is January 1, 2011. The signed HCFA-179 and the approved plan pages are enclosed.

If you have any questions or need any further assistance, please contact Rita Nimmons at (404) 562-7415.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Glaze".

Jackie Glaze  
Associate Regional Administrator  
Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations

Enclosures



STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State: GEORGIA

SECTION 2 - COVERAGE AND ELIGIBILITY

Citation(s)

2.1 Application, Determination of Eligibility and Furnishing  
Medicaid  
(Continued)

1902(e)(13) of  
the Act

X (e) Express Lane Option. The Medicaid State agency elects the option to rely on a finding from an Express Lane agency when determining whether a child satisfies one or more components of Medicaid eligibility. The Medicaid State agency agrees to meet all of the Federal statutory and regulatory requirements for this option. This authority may not apply to eligibility determination made before February 4, 2009, or after September 30, 2013.

- (1) The Express Lane option is applied to:  
 Initial Determinations     Redeterminations  
 Both
- (2) A child is defined as younger than age:  
 19     20     21
- (3) The following public agencies are approved by the Medicaid State agency as Express Lane agencies:

The Department of Community Health Division of Public Health - The Child and Nutrition Act of 1966 (the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children or WIC)

TN No.: 11-002

Supersedes TN No.: New

Approval Date: 04-13-11    Effective Date: 01-01-11

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(Continued)

- (4) The following components of Medicaid eligibility are determined under the Express Lane option. Also, specify any differences in budget unit, deeming, income exclusions, income disregards, or other methodology between Medicaid eligibility determinations for such children and the determination under the Express Lane option.

The Department will use the following findings under the express lane option: income, identity, age and residency.

WIC is limited to children under age 5 with a nutritional need. The Department will only receive information on those children. The Department will follow up with the family to find additional children that may be in the household and use the WIC income information to determine eligibility for all children in the household. Citizenship information for all children will be obtained from the family. Identity information for non WIC children will be obtained from the family. The department will not use additional budgeting deductions and will rely solely on the WIC income finding.

The Department will use WIC income findings and apply this income to children who are applying for Medicaid. WIC income is defined as gross cash income before deductions. WIC allows an exclusion from gross family income for military housing. Gross family income must be equal to or less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level.

The Department allows a child support income disregard of \$50 for the budget group. The Department allows the following deductions from earned income for medical eligibility determinations:

- \$90 standard work expense for each employed individual
- \$30 earned income deduction and one-third of the remaining earned income for each employed individual
- dependent care expenses for each child or incapacitated individual

These disregards do not apply to WIC and do not apply to family income for ELE.

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Medicaid  
(Continued)

(5) Check off which option is used to satisfy the Screen and Enroll requirement before a child may be enrolled under title XXI.

(a) Screening threshold established by the Medicaid agency as:  
 (i) \_\_\_ percentage of the Federal Poverty level which exceeds the highest Medicaid income threshold applicable to a child by a minimum of 30 percentage points; specify \_\_\_\_\_; or

(ii) \_\_\_ percentage of the Federal poverty level (that reflects the value of any difference between income methodologies of Medicaid and the Express Lane agency); or

(b) Temporary enrollment pending screen and enroll.

(c) State's regular screen and enroll process for CHIP.

(6) The State elects the option for automatic enrollment without a Medicaid application, based on data obtained from other sources and with the child's or family's affirmative consent to child's Medicaid enrollment.

(7) Check off if the State elects the option to rely on a finding from an Express Lane agency that includes gross income or adjusted gross income shown by State income tax records or returns.

TN No.: 11-002

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