



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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August 30, 2000

Cindy Shirk
HCFA - CMSO
Mail Stop S2-01-16
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21207-5187

Re: CHIP State Plan Amendment

Dear Ms. Shirk:

The State of South Dakota is requesting amendment to the State's Child Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) under Title XXI of the Social Security Act, with an effective date of July 1, 2000.

This SCHIP state plan amendment seeks approval for South Dakota to eliminate the cost share requirements for 18-year-olds. South Dakota's original SCHIP was an expansion of Medicaid, therefore, benefits available under SCHIP mirrored benefits available under Title 19. There are no changes required to the individual pages of the SCHIP state plan, as original SCHIP was an expansion of Medicaid eligibility. Please consider this letter as notification of our intention and request for approval to allow SCHIP benefits (cost share) to mirror Medicaid benefits.

Please be advised that South Dakota will also be requesting amendment to the Medicaid State plan, which will effectively remove cost share requirements for 18 year olds.

The effect of these state plan amendments will be to ensure consistency for all 18-year-olds receiving medical assistance benefits in South Dakota. South Dakota has submitted a separate SCHIP state plan called CHIP-NM, (Children's Health Insurance Program, Non-Medicaid) which will expand eligibility in an effort to reduce the number of uninsured children in South Dakota. It is our intention that all children receive identical medical benefits, including the exclusion from any cost sharing requirements for children under age 19, whether they are receiving benefits under original SCHIP, CHIP-NM, or Medicaid.

Your consideration and approval of this state plan amendment will be greatly appreciated. Should you have questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at the address or phone number listed above. Thank you.

Sincerely,

 James W. Ellenbecker, Secretary
Department of Social Services

Cc: Spencer Erickson
HCFA Regional Office