



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
Office of the Director

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL B. KURTZ
Director

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February 8, 2001

Ms. Angela Corbin, Project Officer
Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Health Care Financing Administration
Mail Stop S2-01-16
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Corbin:

Based on the HCFA determination that the Mountain States Group contract for Children's Health Insurance Program education and outreach is a provider related donation, Idaho will not pursue contracting with the Mountain States Group for CHIP education and outreach as outlined in the state plan amendment.

Please accept this notification as confirmation the State of Idaho wishes HCFA to consider Idaho's current state plan amendment for the State Children's Health Insurance Program under Title XXI of the Social Security Act with the exclusion of the Mountain States Group contract for providing CHIP education and outreach. Attached is page 12 of the revised State Children's Health Insurance Program state plan amendment, which reflects this change.

The state is disappointed not to be able to utilize federal financial participation for CHIP education and outreach in the Mountain States Group contract. However, we appreciate your consideration and assistance in this matter. If you have any questions about this submission, please contact Marnie Basom at (208) 364-1813.

Sincerely,

KARL B. KURTZ
Director

KBK/mb/ksl

cc: Bob Reid, Chief, Medicaid Branch for the Division of Medicaid and State Operation,
HCFA Region X
Liz Trias, Health Insurance Specialist, HCFA Region X

- Work with Mountain States Group, a private non-profit corporation, in developing and implementing a successful proposal for funding through The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Covering Kids Initiative to increase enrollment of uninsured children in health insurance programs.
 - DHW staff worked with Mountain States Group staff on the initial application for Covering Kids funding from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
 - DHW staff participates on the Covering Kids Coalitions at the statewide level and in the project's two pilot communities.
 - DHW's CHIP Outreach Coordinator and the Covering Kids Director meet regularly to coordinate outreach efforts.
 - DHW staff have engaged in joint outreach efforts with Covering Kids staff at the state and regional levels.
 - The Covering Kids Director serves on the DHW CHIP Quality Improvement Committee.

2.3 Describe how the new State Title XXI program is designed to be coordinated with such efforts to increase the number of children with creditable health coverage so that only eligible targeted low-income children are covered:
(Section 2102)(a)(3)

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) began enrolling children in Idaho Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in October 1997. The Health Care Financing Agency (HCFA) approved the state plan in June 1998, as a Medicaid expansion program. At the program approval time, eligibility for the program included children 0-19 years of age with no credible health insurance coverage and with a family income below 160% of the Federal poverty limit. The Idaho Legislature changed the income eligibility to 150%, effective July 1998.

When the federal government developed the CHIP program (Title XXI), CHIP terminology referred to a categorical health insurance program for children whose family's income was above traditional Medicaid eligibility (Title XIX) and below the 'eligibility cap established by each state's legislature (in Idaho's case 150% of poverty).