



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Health Care Financing Administration

Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Family and Children's Health Program Group
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

MAR 6 2000

Francis T. Finnegan, Jr., Director
State of Maine
Department of Human Services
Bureau of Medical Services
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011

Dear Mr. Finnegan:

Thank you for your proposal, dated January 4, 2000, an amendment to your State Children's Health Insurance Program under Title XXI of the Social Security Act. We are impressed with the efforts that Maine has made to provide health care coverage to uninsured children. As you are aware, your proposed amendment has been undergoing review by the Department of Health and Human Services. In order to proceed with our review, however, additional information will be required. The enclosure explains more fully the areas that require additional information and clarification. From that listing, our major concern related to the following area:

Section 9.10 Please provide a revised budget that includes the increase in eligibility created by the proposed expansion.

We have previously requested this information from you. However, because the budget information remains incomplete, it is now necessary to stop the review period. Under Section 2106(c) of the Social Security Act, HCFA must either approve, disapprove, or request additional information on a proposed Title XXI State Plan amendment within 90 days. This letter constitutes our notification that specified additional information is needed in order to fully assess your plan. The 90-day review period has been stopped by this request and will resume as soon as a substantive response to all of the enclosed questions is received. The members of the review team would be happy to answer any questions you may have in regard to this letter and to assist your staff in formulating a response.

Please send your response, either on disk or electronically, as well as in hard copy to Cathy Cope, project officer for Maine's Title XXI plan, with a copy to Ronald Preston, Associate Regional Administrator for the HCFA Region I, Division of Medicaid and State Operations. Ms. Cope's

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Internet address is: CCope@HCFA.GOV. Her mailing address is:

Division of Integrated Health Systems
Health Care Financing Administration
Mail Stop S2-01-16
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

We appreciate the efforts of your staff and share your goal of providing health care to low income, uninsured children through Title XXI. If you have questions or concerns regarding the matters raised in this letter, your staff may contact either Ms. Cope at (410) 786-8287 or Mr. Preston at (617) 565-1223. They will provide or arrange for any technical assistance you may require in preparing your response. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cindy Martin
Director

Enclosure

cc: Boston Regional Office

**Questions and Comments on Maine's State Children's Health Insurance Program
Title XXI State Plan Amendment
Submitted on January 5,2000**

Section 1. General Description and Purpose of the State Child Health Plans

The State has indicated that the State Children's Health Insurance Program will be expanded to cover children age 1 through 18 in families with incomes from 151 percent through 200 percent of the Federal Poverty level (FPL), yet this expansion does not include infants ages 0-12 months who are only covered up to 185 percent FPL in Medicaid. Please explain this omission, including the State's plan to address this omission.

Section 4. Eligibility Standards and Methodology

1. Section 4.4.4 Please describe the process the State utilizes to identify American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and to insure that AI/AN children do not participate in cost sharing.
2. Section 4.4.4 recognizes the non-existence of cost-sharing on American Indian children. However, there is no mention of outreach efforts specifically targeting this population to further educate American Indian families about program options and the new waiver of cost sharing. Therefore, please describe in greater detail the specific activities that will be employed to reach the Native American population?

Section 9. Strategic Objectives and Performance Goals for the Plan Administration

1. Section 9.10 Please provide a revised budget to reflect the increase in eligibility created by the proposed expansion.
2. How many children does the State expect to enroll?