



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

I/T/U Public Notice 2013-06

June 20, 2013

RE: MAGI and CHIP Enrollment and Renewal in 2014

Dear Tribal Representative:

The State is seeking to invoke the expedited (14 days) consultation as authorized under the state plan for an upcoming waiver request to CMS. In State Health Officials Letter #13-003 on the subject "Facilitating Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment and Renewal in 2014," CMS outlined five strategies for assisting states to help facilitate streamlined enrollment procedures for 2014. The strategies that will be most beneficial to Oklahoma will require two time-limited waiver amendments, which were also discussed with federal partners on May 31, 2013. CMS indicated that consultation with stakeholders is encouraged in this waiver amendment process.

Federal law established a new Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) standard that will be used for certain populations starting October 1, 2013, to determine income eligibility for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and premium tax credits. MAGI is a simplified system that is different from current income evaluations and could result in loss of eligibility for some individuals. Federal law requires that when States transition to MAGI, the eligibility systems fairly protect beneficiaries who might otherwise lose coverage.

OHCA proposes to take two steps:

- (1) to begin using MAGI methodology on October 1 to have only one set of requirements, and
- (2) to extend January through March 2014 renewals to protect eligibility of those individuals who could be disqualified by MAGI methods.

The information systems changes and related expenses will be greatly reduced if we can operate under one system of rules effective October 1, 2013, and going forward. In addition, certain agency policies will need to be revised to match the new timeframe.

OHCA will seek waiver approval to implement the two time-limited steps above.

OHCA values consultation with Tribal Governments and looks forward to discussing these potential waiver amendments at Tribal Consultation on July 2. Based on the expedited consultation timeframe, OHCA intends to incorporate all feedback from Tribal partners and submit the waiver requests to CMS on July 5. If you have any questions or comments about the proposed changes, please do not hesitate to contact me at (405) 522-7303. Or, you may visit the tribal consultation webpage to send comments at <http://www.okhca.org/providers.aspx?id=12697>.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dana Miller".

Dana Miller
Tribal Relations Director