

The Honorable Mark Dayton
State of Minnesota
Satin Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

On March 10, 2011, Minnesota submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) its revised extension for its section 1115 demonstration, entitled Prepaid Medical Assistance Project Plus (PMAP+) (11-W-00039/5), which is due to expire on June 30, 2011. The revised request included a modification to expand coverage under that demonstration to adults without children with family income from 75 percent Federal poverty level (FPL) up to and including 133 percent of the FPL. This population is currently enrolled in the State-only funded MinnesotaCare program which utilizes different eligibility criteria for determining program eligibility than the criteria currently utilized under Medicaid law.

I am pleased to inform you that based on our discussions, we are eager to partner with you on this proposal, which appears to further the objectives of title XIX by expanding coverage to additional needy individuals.

It is critically important, however, that Minnesota comply with Federal statutory and regulatory requirements in expanding coverage to this new population. In particular, we cannot move forward on your proposal without the State removing the 6-month waiting period requirement imposed on non-State residents under State law. This change is needed to comply with Federal law.

Assuming the State can address these changes and other changes discussed with my staff, I have directed CMS to work with you on the necessary terms and conditions of a demonstration that will provide Minnesota with the necessary flexibility to expand coverage. We anticipate we will be able to finalize the agreement on or before the date when the current demonstration expires, and welcome the opportunity to arrive at a mutually agreeable plan.

In addition, CMS is also committed to continuing to work collaboratively with the State in its additional request to expand coverage to adults without children with income from 133 up to and including 250 percent of the FPL.

Sincerely,

Donald Berwick, M.D.