

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 up to and including 133 percent of the Federal poverty level (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 discussion regarding your proposal, we are eager to partner with you. The proposal 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 work toward approval of your proposal without the following changes. In order to not miss this opportunity for expansion, the State must remove two elements that are inconsistent with Medicaid requirements: the 6-month waiting period requirement imposed on non-State residents under State law, and the option for the adults without children applicants to self-declare citizenship. The Secretary cannot exercise her authority to approve the State's request without these changes to comply with Federal law.

Assuming the State can address these changes, I have directed CMS to work with you on the necessary terms and conditions of a demonstration that will permit Minnesota with the necessary flexibility to expand coverage. 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.

We welcome the opportunity to continue our work with the State to arrive at a mutually agreeable plan that moves forward in expanding coverage to adults without children with family income from 75 up to and including 133 percent of the FPL.

Sincerely,

Donald Berwick, M.D.

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