

Project Startup Report

Project Name: Continuous Eligibility

Agency: Department of Human Services

Business Unit/Program Area: Medical Services

Project Sponsor: Maggie Anderson

Project Manager: Jeannine Wohl

Project Description

The Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 allows states the option of providing up to 12 months of continuous coverage for children through age 18 enrolled in Medicaid.

Continuous Eligibility was authorized by the 2007 state legislature to ensure children maintain health care coverage for up to 12 months, even if families experience a change in income or some other change in status.

Business Need or Problem

The Vision eligibility system currently does not accommodate Continuous Eligibility in Medicaid.

Key Metrics

Project Start Date	Estimated Length of Project	Estimated Cost
04/01/08	7 months	\$ 366,502.00

Benefits to Be Achieved

Project Objectives	Measurement Description
1). To be compliant with Senate Bill 2012.	In Vision a child under age 19 who has been determined eligible will be deemed eligible for a total of 12 months regardless of changes in circumstances other than attainment of the maximum age stated above. This will be verified thru Acceptance Testing.
2). To follow the federal guidelines to ensure federal funding is available for services.	The Vision eligibility system will be enhanced to meet the following federal Medicaid guideline 3307.2: As Continuous Eligibility for Children under Age 19.-- After eligibility for benefits is determined or re determined, you have the option to continue that eligibility for a period of up to 12 months regardless of changes in circumstances. The individual is eligible for benefits until the end of the period or until the individual exceeds the age limit. States must specify (1) the duration of the continued eligibility (which is not to exceed 12 months), and (2) the age under which an individual may be eligible for continued benefits (which is not to exceed 19 years of age).
3). To define the process of determining what the effect of providing this service will cause within the Medicaid Program.	This process will assist Medical Services in accumulating the data necessary to determine the following after the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percent increase of the total number of months of coverage provided to Medicaid children. The percent increase of total Medicaid payments for children who qualify for Continuous Eligibility.

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Cost/Benefit Analysis

The Vision eligibility system will be able to determine continuous eligibility, providing coverage up to 12 months for children who may otherwise have their coverage discontinued or have a break in coverage.

Key Constraints or Risks

Risk: Availability of resources knowledgeable in the eligibility component of Medicaid. This risk applies to the business and technical side.

Mitigation: To identify within DHS and ITD backups that have a base knowledge of the system.

Risk: The project may not be completed in time to allow Medicaid to accumulate enough data to allow Medical Services to determine the impact of this enhanced coverage on the 2009 Medicaid Budget request.

Mitigation: To provide enough resources to meet the project deadline.

