



Medicaid Expansion 2013-2014

BACKGROUND

Beginning in January 2014, Medicaid will increase its national eligibility limits for adults to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, representing an annual income of under \$15,000. This will open Medicaid coverage to childless adults, many of them uninsured. This is a category of the population not currently served by Medicaid, and in Washington State alone, we anticipate a potential enrollment increase of up to half a million new clients over several years.

Washington's challenge will be to create a consumer-friendly eligibility determination system that meets federal expectations and maximizes administrative efficiencies.

THE NEW CLIENTS BY MEDICAL GROUP

- **Newly eligible Medicaid individuals** – About 325,000 individuals aged 19-64 not currently eligible for Medicaid (income under 138% FPL, including a 5% income disregard.)
- **“The Welcome Mat”** – Up to 75,000 individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid but may not realize it.
- **Current Medicaid/CHIP recipients** – Conversion of about 800,000 children, pregnant women, families (parents/caretaker/relatives) into Medicaid from other programs.

CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION TOOLS

- A Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology will mirror federal income tax filing and household composition rules
- Past practice of using multiple income disregards to adjust family income will be replaced by one 5% disregard for all programs
- Federal rules will not set limits on assets or resources

NEW HEALTH BENEFITS EXCHANGE WILL EXPAND MARKETPLACE

- The Health Benefits Exchange, called HealthPlanFinder, will use a simplified and seamless application that can be processed through one web portal
- The portal will automatically screen data and determine eligibility for Medicaid, CHIP or for tax-credit subsidized coverage

OTHER EXPANSION WORK IN PROGRESS

- Policy Development to further streamline eligibility and limit risk of churn
- IT System Improvements – A new eligibility rules engine, links to ACES
- Stakeholder support – Open door to feedback and collaboration
- Manage newly eligible enrollment
- Program Integrity – preventing overpayments and fraud
- Marketing/Education – Publicizing eligibility changes, how to use new Exchange
- Agency partnerships: Coordinating state government agencies involved in reform issues