

Streamlining the Application Process: Electronic Verification & Express Lane Eligibility

ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION

What are the electronic verification interfaces and how do they impact public insurance programs?

- Electronic verification systems make it easier and less expensive for Coloradans to apply for public health insurance, including Medicaid and the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). The changes can eliminate the need for some applicants to supply paper documents to verify income, U.S. citizenship and identity.

The electronic interfaces include:

- **Income Verification** - The Income Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) allows the verification of income to be electronically verified by using existing data collected from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.
- **U.S. Citizenship & Identity Verification** – The changes allow identity and U.S. citizenship to be verified electronically through a connection directly with the Social Security Administration.

This change reduces the burden of providing birth certificates or other paper documentation to prove U.S. citizenship and identity. Costs to obtain copies of birth certificates alone for a Colorado family of four can be more than \$70.

- **Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)** - Effective February 27, 2012 another option will be available to electronically verify an applicant's identification and lawful presence. Eligibility systems will connect directly with the Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR), and the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to perform real-time queries to produce a match or verification of the available information as related to the applicant's Colorado Driver's License or Colorado State Identification card. Training for the DMV interfaces will begin February 14, 2012. Please follow the link to view additional information and to register: <http://hcpftraining.gosignmeup.com>, **click on** Counties and Medical Assistance Sites, DMV Interface Training.
- **Automatic Reenrollment** – Eligible Coloradans who have had no change in their income or number of household members can be automatically re-enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+ without having to return a renewal form.

Who is impacted by the new electronic interfaces?

- Coloradans applying for Medicaid and CHP+ will be impacted by this change.

Does this eliminate the need to bring in paper documentation for all applicants?

- Some applicants will still need to provide paper documentation. Applicants who do not provide a Social Security Number will be required to provide proof of their wages; self-employed individuals will still need to provide income verification by filling in the current ledger information on the

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Application for Medical Assistance or a profit and loss statement. Applicants who cannot be verified through the Social Security interface will still need to submit original documents to verify citizenship and identity.

EXPRESS LANE ELIGIBILITY – SCHOOL LUNCH PROCESS

What is Express Lane Eligibility – School Lunch and how does it impact public insurance programs?

- Beginning October 14, 2011 a new eligibility process called Express Lane Eligibility – School Lunch will be available to school districts. Express Lane Eligibility allows a simplified eligibility process for Medicaid and CHP+ using Free/Reduced School Lunch information.

How does the new Express Lane Eligibility – School Lunch process work?

- The process begins when a family applies for Free/Reduced Lunch benefits at a participating school district. If the school determines the child is eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch using the Free/Reduced Lunch application, the school will provide the application information to an eligibility site, and a Family Medicaid/ CHP+ application will be initiated.
- Families may receive follow up calls or letters from eligibility sites if they need additional information to determine eligibility for Medicaid or CHP+. After program eligibility has been determined families will be notified by letter.

Who is impacted by the Express Lane Eligibility – School Lunch process?

- This process will streamline applications for children who may be eligible for Medicaid and CHP+ but are not enrolled.

Are schools required to participate?

- No. Participation in Express Lane Eligibility – School Lunch is optional for school districts. Contact your local school district to find out if they are participating.

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