



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

January 11, 2016

Ms. Anne Marie Costello  
Acting Director for Policy  
Children and Adult Health Program Group  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, MS S2-26-12  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-185

Dear Ms. Costello:

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is submitting the following request in response to the August 31, 2015, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), State Medicaid Director's Letter, Affordable Care Act Guidance #34, on Policy Options for Using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to Determine Medicaid Eligibility and an Update on Targeted Enrollment Strategies.

DHCS intends to continue California's previously approved express eligibility enrollment efforts specific to individuals enrolled in California's SNAP, known as CalFresh and use them through December 31, 2018, given the successes we encountered with our processes.

For the express eligibility enrollment efforts, DHCS would continue to use existing aid codes to identify the numbers enrolled through the express eligibility efforts and for claiming the applicable federal funding levels.

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DHCS is requesting an extension to use waiver authority under section 1902(e)(14)(A) of the Social Security Act to accomplish the following:

**Ability to continue to enroll individuals into Medi-Cal, relying on their eligibility for California's SNAP, known as CalFresh in California.** This strategy will be targeted toward individuals, who currently do not have health care coverage. California will continue this enrollment simplification to ease the administrative burden on the county eligibility workers. DHCS is requesting CMS approval of using this streamlined enrollment process through December 31, 2018.

Enrollment efforts will include:

- a. Using application information from CalFresh as means to target potentially eligible individuals. This information will include income, family size, citizenship/identity, and residency;
- b. Allowing individuals the ability to apply by phone, mail, fax, or in-person and to similarly collect required signatures (electronic, soft copy, phone);
- c. Working with county program partners to implement a seamless enrollment process by leveraging individual's CalFresh case information contained in the local county eligibility system, known as the Statewide Automated Welfare System, to establish eligibility for Medi-Cal purposes; and
- d. Using the CalFresh enrollment data as means to streamline the renewal dates for both programs, to the extent the person elects to be enrolled in Medi-Cal.

DHCS looks forward to your review and approval of the requested extension. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Sandra Williams, Chief, Medi-Cal Eligibility Division, by phone at (916) 445-6938, or by email at [Sandra.williams@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Sandra.williams@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Mari Cantwell  
Chief Deputy Director  
Health Care Programs  
State Medicaid Director