



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Human Services Department
Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
Kari Armijo, Cabinet Secretary
Alex Castillo Smith, Deputy Secretary
Kathy Slater-Huff, Deputy Secretary
Lorelei Kellogg, Acting Medicaid Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marina I Piña
Communications Director
Marina.pina@hsd.nm.gov

December 18, 2023

New Mexico Medicaid ensures continuous health coverage for children from birth to age six

92,842 New Mexico children to benefit from expansion

SANTA FE - New Mexico Medicaid has received federal approval to extend continuous health insurance coverage to children from birth to age six, benefiting 92,842 children. Starting January 1, 2024, this expansion eliminates the need for annual Medicaid renewals for this age group, ensuring uninterrupted access to essential health care services. Additionally, the Medicaid Home visiting program will be expanded to more providers, offering important early support to new families during pregnancy and post-birth.

"With Medicaid covering 75% of all births in New Mexico, this achievement is a monumental milestone, offering significant support to 92,842 children in the state," said **Kari Armijo**, cabinet secretary for the New Mexico Human Services Department. "This change eases the administrative burden on families by eliminating the need for annual Medicaid renewals for children from birth to age six — we are ensuring uninterrupted access to essential health care services for our youngest New Mexicans."

Expansion of Medicaid Home Visiting Program: This approval will allow additional home visiting providers to enroll in the Medicaid program, expanding options for new families to gain important support during pregnancy and after birth. These services include prenatal and postpartum care, infant care, health and nutrition guidance, and child development support.

"This expansion is a significant step to fostering family wellness and child development from the comfort of the home," said **Lorelei Kellogg**, Acting New Mexico Medicaid Director. "The inclusion of more home visiting providers in the Medicaid program broadens the support network for new families, offering crucial assistance during pregnancy and post-birth."

These approvals are part of a larger initiative to bolster maternal and child health in New Mexico.

Federal approvals that start in January 2024 also include enhancements to existing programs such as:

- Community Benefit, allowing in-home services for Medicaid customers.
- Expanded services through the Linkages program, supporting individuals with substance misuse disorders.

- Authority for legally responsible individuals, such as parents, to be paid caretakers for children receiving certain Medicaid services.

The department anticipates further approvals in 2024 for initiatives targeting health-related social needs, such as Medicaid coverage for incarcerated individuals during the pre-release period, housing initiatives with respite programs for unhoused individuals, and food as medicine programs for nutritional support to specific Medicaid populations.

"We are strongly committed to our mission to advance access to high-quality health care for all New Mexicans," concludes **Kari Armijo**. "These expansions are just the beginning of more inclusive and comprehensive health care solutions for our state."

Currently, 896,528 New Mexicans are enrolled in the state's Medicaid program.

###

We talk, interpret and smile in all languages. We provide written information to our customers in both English and Spanish and interpretation services are available in 58 languages through our provider, [CTS Language Link](#). For our hearing, and speech impaired customers, we utilize [Relay New Mexico](#), a free 24-hour service that ensures equal communication access via the telephone to individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled.

The Human Services Department provides services and benefits to 988,200 New Mexicans through several programs including: the Medicaid Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Support Program, and several Behavioral Health Services.