

## Illinois COVID-19 Section 1115(a) Demonstration Application

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) a public health emergency. This declaration allows states to submit requests to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to waive certain federal regulations and provide additional flexibility to address the emergency.

Under this authority, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services submitted a COVID-19 Section 1115(a) Demonstration application to CMS to quickly expand access to healthcare services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Section 1115(a) Demonstration application is one component of a larger package of waivers and State Plan Amendments to maximize flexibility within the Medicaid program during the public health emergency.

The Illinois COVID-19 1115(a) demonstration application is designed to: 1) mitigate the impact and community spread of COVID-19, 2) streamline Medicaid application processing to provide access to needed healthcare services as quickly as possible, and 3) preserve access to Medicaid coverage during the public health emergency. The specific waiver requests are outlined below.

### Illinois COVID-19 Section 1115(a) Demonstration Goals and Proposals:

#### Mitigate the Impact and Community Spread of COVID-19

- Provide coverage at no cost to the uninsured for COVID-19 treatment;
- Eliminate out-of-pocket costs of COVID-19 treatment for the insured through secondary payer coverage;
- Provide temporary housing as a Medicaid benefit for individuals experiencing homelessness for the 14 day quarantine period;
- Receive federal matching dollars for Medicaid services provided to inmates without requiring transportation to an acute care facility; and
- Cover home delivered meals for Medicaid beneficiaries who do not have access to meals during the directed social distancing period.

#### Streamline Medicaid Application Processing to Provide Access to Healthcare Services Quickly

- Allow the state to determine aged, blind, and disabled adult applicants presumptively eligible upon receipt of application;
- Suspend transfer-of-assets rules for clients in nursing facilities and similar institutions;
- Allow self-attestation of immigration and citizenship status;
- Allow non-state staff to process Medicaid applications in additional locations; and
- Allow direct enrollments into Medicaid managed care plans through auto-assignment.

#### Preserve Access to Medicaid Coverage During the Public Health Emergency

- Extend renewal dates for 12 months.

The full Illinois COVID-19 1115(a) demonstration application is posted on the HFS website at: <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>.