New Hampshire Section 1115 Waiver Demonstration Summary

Background

On June 28, 2017, New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu signed HB 517, which included a provision that required the Department of Health and Human Services to seek a waiver in order to establish certain work requirements as conditions of eligibility in the New Hampshire Health Protection Program (NHHPP). The legislation stated that the waiver must be in place by April 30, 2018 if approved.

In October 2017, the State of New Hampshire submitted an application for amendment to the Special Terms and Conditions for the New Hampshire Health Protection Premium Assistance 1115 Demonstration Program. The purpose of the amendment is to implement the requirements of HB 517 to obtain CMS approval of a work requirement for the NHHPP population (the new adult group) as a condition of eligibility for the program. This waiver is currently pending CMS approval.

1115 Waiver Elements

The waiver requires individuals eligible for Medicaid under the new adult group, who are unemployed, to engage in at least 20 hours per week of work upon application of benefits, 25 hours per week after receiving 12 months of benefits, and 30 hours per week after receiving 24 months of benefits over the lifetime of the applicant.

The individual must be engaged in one or a combination of the following activities: (1) unsubsidized employment, (2) subsidized private sector employment, (3) subsidized public sector employment, (4) work experience, including work associated with the refurbishing of public publicly assisted housing, if sufficient private sector employment is not available, (5) Onthe-job training, (6) vocational educational training not to exceed 12 months with respect to any individual, (7) education directly related to employment, in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency, and (8) satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate.

These requirements only apply to those considered "abled-bodied" adults in the new adult group. This requirement does not apply to the following individuals: (1) a person who is temporarily unable to participate in the requirements due to illness or incapacity as certified by a licensed medical provider, who shall certify the duration and limitations of the disability, (2) a person participating in a state certified drug court program, (3) a parent or caretaker where the required care is considered necessary by a licensed eligible medical provider who shall certify the duration that such care is required, and (4) a parent or caretaker of a dependent child under six years of age.