



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Andrea Palm, Secretary

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Alberta Darling, Senate Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 317 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable John Nygren, Assembly Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 309 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

We are in unprecedented times. On March 12, 2020, Governor Evers declared a public health emergency in response to COVID-19. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency in response to COVID-19. These declarations followed a public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on January 31, 2020.

Section 6008 of H.R. 6201, known as the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA) of 2020, enacted March 18, 2020, provides for a 6.2% increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for states during the calendar year quarters in which the public health emergency declared by the U.S. DHHS Secretary remains in place.

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau has estimated that the 6.2% increase to the FMAP would result in GPR savings of approximately \$150 million per quarter.

However, per Sec. 6008 (b) states must meet certain conditions to receive the funds. States cannot receive the enhanced match if:

- (1) Eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures under the approved state plan are more restrictive than were in effect on January 1, 2020.
- (2) The amount of any premium imposed by the State is in excess of the amount of such premium in effect on January 1, 2020.
- (3) Any individual is terminated from Medicaid or CHIP for any reason other than voluntary withdrawal from the program and the individual leaving the state.

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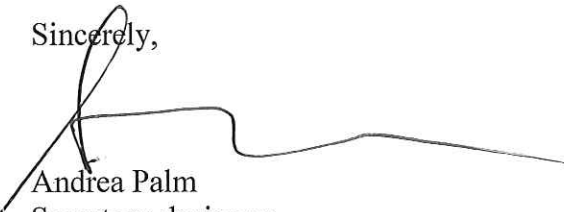
- (4) Cost sharing is imposed, during such quarter for any testing services and treatments for COVID-19, including vaccines, specialized equipment, and therapies.

Per s. 49.45 (23b) created by Wisconsin Act 370, the Department of Health Services fully implemented a monthly premium for BadgerCare Plus childless adults with income greater than 50% of the federal poverty level (FPL) on February 1, 2020.

In order to access the enhanced FMAP, the Department of Health Services proposes to immediately suspend implementation of BadgerCare Plus childless adult premiums, effectively reducing premiums for those members to \$0. In addition, the Department proposes to suspend implementation of all Medicaid & CHIP terminations for any reason other than voluntary withdrawal from the program and the individual leaving the state.

We seek your partnership and cooperation in quickly convening telephonically or via paper ballot to address this urgent matter to ensure the state is able to receive these additional dollars to serve the people of our state during this time of emergency.

Sincerely,



Andrea Palm
Secretary-designee