

OVERVIEW

Since 1972, states have been required to provide family planning services and supplies to Medicaid populations, but not to individuals otherwise ineligible for Medicaid. However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would allow states to provide family planning services and supplies for individuals not otherwise eligible for Medicaid through Research and Demonstration Waivers under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act. Louisiana requested and received approval in June 2006 to provide such services through the TAKE CHARGE Waiver. The current TAKE CHARGE Waiver program will end December 31, 2014.

Section 2303 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) established a new Medicaid eligibility group entitled, “State Eligibility Option for Family Planning Services”. Federal funding was made available and states now have the option to provide coverage, under State Plan authority, for family planning and family planning-related services and supplies to individuals (male and female of child bearing age) that could previously only be offered through demonstration projects.

Effective July 1, 2014, the Louisiana Medicaid Program began providing coverage of family planning services and supplies under the Medicaid State Plan to this new eligibility group through Take Charge Plus. This program is designed to increase access to services which will allow improved reproductive and physical health, improved perinatal outcomes, and reduce the number of unintended pregnancies. In addition, the program is designed to decrease the rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and thus help to improve birth outcomes. Services available to individuals under this program include family planning and family planning-related services. Any enrolled Medicaid provider whose scope of practice includes family planning health services may offer these services.