

April 15, 2009

MEDICAID FAMILY PLANNING: Making Contraception More Accessible and Affordable

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Rep. Heather R. Mizeur, State Delegate
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Speakers for the Webinar



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Polling Question

Please tell us a little about yourself. Pick the
answer that best describes you:

- State Advocate
- National Advocate
- State Official
- Interested Individual
- Other



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FAMILY PLANNING BASICS


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What Is Included In a Family Planning Visit?

- Contraceptive Counseling and Supplies
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening
- STI Screening & Treatment
- HIV Screening
- Routine Gynecological Exams




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Why Does Family Planning Matter?

- Provides critical health care to women
- Improves maternal and child health
- Provides significant economic benefits for women and families


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Low-Income Women Need Help Affording Family Planning Services



Unintended pregnancies are increasingly concentrated among low-income women

17 million women are in need of publicly-funded family planning care

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Who Pays for Family Planning Services for Low-Income Women?



- Title X Family Planning Program
- State-Only Sources
- Private Insurance
- Out-of-Pocket
- Medicaid

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MEDICAID BASICS



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Medicaid Basics



- Medicaid is a state-federal health insurance program for certain low-income people
- Federal government establishes general parameters for state Medicaid programs
- States have flexibility within these federal parameters to run their programs
- The federal government and states share the costs of the Medicaid program



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Medicaid and Women



- Three-quarters of the adult Medicaid population are women
- In 2004, over 15 million low-income women (19-64 years) were enrolled in Medicaid
- Medicaid finances 41% of all births in the United States
- Medicaid accounts for 71% of all publicly-funded family planning services



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Medicaid and Family Planning



The State Medicaid Manual defines “family planning” as services to aid those who voluntarily choose not to risk an initial pregnancy, as well as those families with children who desire to control family size.

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Medicaid and Family Planning

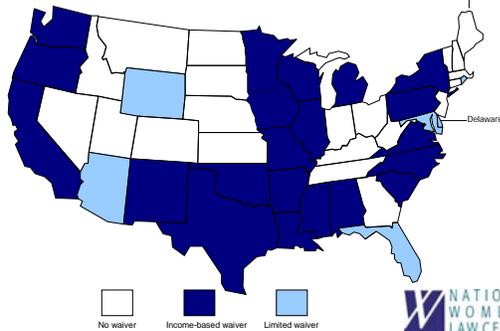


- Federal law requires states to include family planning services in all Medicaid plans, though with some notable exceptions
- States have broad latitude to determine what services to cover and which to exclude
- Family planning has what is known as an “enhanced match” rate



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State Family Planning Expansions Under Medicaid



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State Family Planning Expansions Have Been Remarkably Successful



- Expanding the number of individuals receiving family planning services
- Making family planning services more geographically available
- Increasing the use of effective contraceptive methods
- Extending the interval between pregnancies
- Helping women prevent unintended pregnancies
- Reducing the number of teen pregnancies
- Generating substantial savings for federal and state governments



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**But ...
Federal Bureaucracy has
Prevented More States from
Expanding Coverage –
and More Women from
Getting Care**



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After more than 15 years of experience and study after study of demonstrated success...

- Medicaid family planning expansions are **still** considered “research and demonstration” projects.
- Applying for and securing a waiver to create a Medicaid family planning expansion program takes an average of **two years**.



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**Federal Legislation
Is Needed**



**to Make It Easier
for States to
Expand Coverage**



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- Allows states to expand coverage by state option, without having to go through cumbersome waiver process
- Already included in President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Blueprint
- Related Legislation Introduced as Part of Prevention First Act (H.R. 463/S.21)



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How much does it cost?



NOTHING!

The Congressional Budget Office determined that the Medicaid Family Planning State Option saves the federal government **\$700 million** over 10 years



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But this bill is controversial, right?



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NO!



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The Medicaid Family Planning State Option Has Strong Public Support

- 63% of *Republican and Independent voters* favor legislation that would give states the flexibility to expand insurance coverage for contraceptives under Medicaid
- 73% of all voters **strongly favor** making it easier for women at all income levels to obtain contraceptives



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The Maryland Story:



Rep. Heather R. Mizeur,
State Delegate,
Maryland House of Delegates



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Maryland currently covers family planning services for women, up to 250% FPL, who had a Medicaid covered birth in the last 5 years.



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This program has made a difference for many low-income women, but does not offer assistance to those who have not yet had a baby in the Medicaid system.



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House Bill 1279 would expand eligibility for Medicaid family planning services to **all** low-income women, by basing eligibility on income [250% FPL], not on post-partum status.



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- According to 2006 estimates, this change would result in:
 - 113,400 new program participants
 - 16,400 unplanned pregnancies averted
 - \$20.1 million in savings to the federal government by its third year of operation
 - \$ 43.8 million in savings to Maryland by its third year of operation



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So why hasn't Maryland expanded its current Medicaid family planning program?



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The Maine Story:

Kate Brogan,
Vice President for Public Affairs,
Family Planning Association of Maine

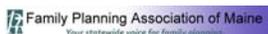



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Maine's Family Planning System



- The Family Planning Association of Maine is the sole Title X grantee
- Six delegate agencies operate 43 clinical sites
- 30,000 patients each year
- 79% of patients are below 200% of federal poverty level
- 20% of patients are enrolled in Medicaid



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Medicaid in Maine



- 23% of Maine residents are enrolled in MaineCare
- Families with children are eligible at 150% FPL
- Pregnant women are eligible at 200% FPL, and remain eligible for 60 days after end of pregnancy
- Children born while mother is enrolled are automatically eligible for one year
- Childless Adult Waiver (100% FPL) now closed



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Family Planning Expansion – What would it mean in Maine



By the third year of implementation:

- 16,400 additional women receiving family planning services
- 2,400 unplanned pregnancies averted
- 1,000 abortions averted, more than 1/3 of the abortions obtained each year in Maine
- 1,000 unintended births averted
- Net savings of \$4.2 million - \$2.7 million of that in state savings



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Why Doesn't Maine Just Apply for a Waiver?



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What Can YOU Do to Help Make This Bill Law?



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For more information...

- On the National Women's Law Center, visit www.nwlc.org
- On NWLC's Medicaid Family Planning Project, visit <http://action.nwlc.org/medicaidfamilyplanning>



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