

## Presumptive Eligibility for Children

Your agency must become a Qualified Entity (QE) to provide Presumptive Eligibility (PE) for children. PE allows children to be “presumed” eligible for Medicaid or Hawki immediately, while a formal eligibility determination is made by the Department of Human Services (DHS). If approved for PE, the child will have full Medicaid coverage for the presumptive period (even if he or she qualifies for Hawki). The presumptive period lasts until a formal eligibility decision is made (enrollment or denial), the application is withdrawn, or until the last day of the month following the date of application. **You do not need to be a Certified Application Counselor to provide Presumptive Eligibility.**

Presumptive Eligibility is a great way for children to receive medical coverage immediately, but does require that the Qualified Entity fully understand the requirements for eligibility. To be eligible for PE, the child must be between the ages of 0 and 19, be an Iowa resident and a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent alien, and meet income requirements. **Only one PE application may be completed in any 12 month period.** As with Hawki and Medicaid, the child’s parents cannot be State of Iowa employees.

### Acronym Guide:

**QE:** Qualified Entity

**PE:** Presumptive Eligibility

**MPEP:** Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility Portal

**SSP:** Self-Service Portal

**NOA:** Notice of Award (aka the NOD – Notice of Decision)

**DHS:** Department of Human Services

**CAC:** Certified Application Counselor

**ELVS:** Eligibility and Verification Information System – electronic phone system that allows providers to verify Medicaid coverage.

**IME:** Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

## **Becoming Certified to Provide PE Services**

All pertinent documents relating to Presumptive Eligibility can be found on the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise website ([www.ime.state.ia.us](http://www.ime.state.ia.us)) under “Providers” (top menu bar), “Tools, Training, and Initiatives” (side menu bar).

### **Application**

Your agency must complete the Application for Certification to Become a Qualified Entity (QE). It is recommended that you check the box to receive future relevant provider information to the email listed on the application. IME will send out newsletters and other very important announcements to the email provided if the box is selected, and this is a great way to ensure you are receiving the most up-to-date information. In the “Children” box, select your provider type (most likely Maternal Health Center or Screening Center).

### **MPEP Training and MPEP Access Request Form**

Once your agency has been approved as a QE, you will need to review the MPEP training and complete the QE MPEP Access Request Form. The Access Request Form will allow your agency staff to obtain usernames and passwords for MPEP. Once agency staff have completed the training, received usernames and passwords, and signed the MOU, they may begin to provide PE for children.

### **Presumptive Eligibility Applications**

Applications may be entered directly into the MPEP system, or a paper application may be completed. The paper application is the “Application for Health Coverage and Help Paying Costs” (form 470-5170), and the Addendum to Application for Presumptive Eligibility (form 470-5192). The main application is the same application that will be used for applications for regular Medicaid, Hawki, or Marketplace subsidies in the Iowa DHS portal. Both of these forms can be found on the DHS website in English and Spanish. The applicant must sign the last page of the application. If the application is completed by the applicant, a school nurse, etc., and then sent to the QE to be entered into MPEP, PE coverage will not begin until it is entered into MPEP.

Once the paper application is completed, it must be entered into MPEP by the QE. There is a significant difference between the paper application and electronic MPEP applications, so you will need to plan accordingly to allow plenty of time to enter the application. You can enter only the required fields (those marked with a \*) into MPEP, however it will help with application processing further down the road if you complete all fields in the application. Also note that the number of babies expected by a pregnant woman is not marked as required, but

the application will be denied if this is not entered correctly (needs to be at least 1 for a pregnant woman). A social security number is required for the child, but not the parent. Therefore, if the parent is undocumented or does not have a social security number, the application will not be affected or denied.

Once you have entered all information into MPEP, you can determine eligibility for those applying for PE. If the eligibility determination is not what you were expecting, at this point you can go back through the application to ensure all information was entered correctly. In order to fully submit the application for PE coverage, you must accept the PE results.

After accepting the results, the QE will have the opportunity to print the NOA and an application summary. If the application was entered directly into MPEP, the applicant should sign the printed summary. **This is the only opportunity the QE will have to print the NOA and summary.** The Notice of Award (NOA) letter should be printed for the family. This letter should be used as proof of coverage, and can be shown to a medical provider in place of a Medicaid card. PE records must be kept for 7 years for audit purposes.

### **Issues with Presumptive Eligibility**

If you have problems with or questions about PE, please contact the IME MPEP Support desk: [IMEMPEPSupport@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:IMEMPEPSupport@dhs.state.ia.us), or call the DHS help desk at 1-855-889-7985. Please note that the phone number for the DHS help desk is the same number used for all programs, so there may be a delay when using this line.

## Eligibility

Income guidelines for PE – effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019:

Family Size	Poverty Level	PE (and Hawki) Income Limit – 302%*
1	\$12,490	\$37,720
2	16,910	\$51,068
3	21,330	\$64,417
4	25,750	\$77,765
5	30,170	\$91,113
6	34,590	\$104,462
7	39,010	\$117,810
8	43,430	\$131,159

\*Medicaid covers pregnant women and infants 0-1 up to 375% of the federal poverty level

### Coverage

