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Medicaid curtails Aged Disabled Waiver enrollment

Officials at the Bureau for Medical Services, the state Medicaid agency, announced today that the agency will be unable to offer Aged and Disabled Waiver services to any applicant whose application is received on or after Monday, Dec. 5, 2011. This move is being taken because of changes in funding levels and to maintain the current level of services for individuals already enrolled in the program.

Factors contributing to this decision include a drop in the federal match rate (from 83.05 percent to 72.62 percent) and a five percent increase in the average cost per person receiving waiver services. The match rate determines the amount of federal and state money contributed to the program.

Individuals currently receiving Aged and Disabled Waiver services and those whose applications are received prior to Dec. 5 will not be affected by this decision. Individuals who apply after Dec. 5 will only receive services when their eligibility is established and if funding for the program becomes available.

The Aged and Disabled Waiver program allows eligible individuals to qualify for Medicaid services when they have more income than a regular Medicaid member. Those enrolled receive traditional Medicaid services in addition to other services designed to allow recipients to stay longer in their homes. Some individuals affected by this decision may still be eligible for Medicaid but not waiver services.

In State Fiscal Year 2011, which ended June 30, 2011, 8,029 individuals received ADW services at an estimated total federal and state cost of \$150 million. This has grown from 4,572 individuals served in 2007 at a total federal and state cost of \$79 million. At the current rate of program enrollment, BMS estimates that 9,300 individuals will enroll in the ADW program and receive services by June 30, 2012.