

Kentucky HEALTH Program Status Update

Legal Decision:

- A legal decision required that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reconsider its approval of the Kentucky HEALTH program.
- CMS is actively re-considering the Kentucky HEALTH program.
- The Kentucky HEALTH 1115 Waiver **does not** need to be re-approved by the courts.
- To clarify: The judge did not block Kentucky HEALTH, but rather vacated the approval and asked CMS to ensure full consideration of all program impacts. CMS (not the state) re-opened the waiver package for the federal comment period to allow comments in light of the judge's decision. The comment period has closed and CMS is re-considering approval of Kentucky HEALTH.

Implementation Plan:

The Kentucky HEALTH team continues to plan for implementation as an important aspect of readiness. CHFS also continues to work with local workforce areas to ensure readiness for the implementation of the PATH Community Engagement component of the program. An implementation timeline will be shared as soon as possible in the event of re-approval.

Notices to Beneficiaries:

In the event of re-approval, the Commonwealth will send notices to Kentucky Medicaid beneficiaries about any changes to their eligibility, eligibility requirements, or coverage, including an updated implementation timeline, per policy guidelines. Beneficiaries who may have a PATH Community Engagement requirement will receive a 90-day notice before they are required to begin PATH Community Engagement.

Implementation Preparation:

Staff across involved agencies and Cabinets continue to work with community partners to prepare for the successful launch of Kentucky HEALTH while CMS reconsiders the Kentucky HEALTH program. The Kentucky HEALTH team has continued to host trainings and public Stakeholder Sessions, and has been busy conducting outreach to new partners across the Commonwealth. All partners are encouraged to direct beneficiaries to resources that have been put into place, such as, educational courses available at CitizenConnect.ky.gov, and career coaches at Kentucky Career Centers. These offices across the Commonwealth are eager to help Kentuckians find job readiness opportunities in their areas now.

Benefits Coverage:

- While CMS reconsiders the Kentucky HEALTH program, Kentuckians continue to access health services the same way they had been prior to the legal decision. Non-medical dental, non-medical vision, and non-emergency medical transportation benefits continue for eligible beneficiaries.
- The Kentucky HEALTH program proposes modifications to coverage for **some** beneficiaries relating to non-medical dental, non-medical vision, and non-emergency medical transportation benefits.

My Rewards:

- Beneficiaries may continue to earn My Rewards dollars by accessing preventive services, participating in qualifying activities, and taking educational courses at CitizenConnect.ky.gov.
- As of September 7, 2018, 225,789 Kentuckians have earned over \$24 million into their My Rewards Accounts.
- Once Kentucky HEALTH is implemented, some beneficiaries may use their My Rewards dollars to pay for approved dental and vision services that are not covered by their Managed Care Organization (MCO).
- Outreach continues to encourage beneficiaries to earn My Rewards dollars before the Kentucky HEALTH program begins.