Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

Nebraska Medicaid Expansion Report
October 2019

November 27, 2019

Prepared in Accordance with LB 294 (2019)
November 27, 2019

Clerk of the Legislature  
Legislative Fiscal Office  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Clerk of the Legislature and Legislative Fiscal Office:

In accordance with LB 294 (2019) please find attached a report on Medicaid Expansion Administrative and Aid policy decisions for the calendar month of October 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact Nate Watson, JD and Cert Legis Prac, Deputy Director for Policy and Regulations, at nate.watson@nebraska.gov.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Van Patton, DHA, Director  
Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care  
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachments: 2
Medicaid Expansion Programs 249 (Administration) & 349 (Aid)

The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC), provides the following update regarding Medicaid Expansion Administrative and Aid policy decisions for the calendar month of October 2019:

On October 25th, the draft section 1115 demonstration waiver application and associated public and tribal notices were published beginning the thirty-day pre-submittal public comment period. The first public hearing was held on October 29th in Scottsbluff, and the second was held on October 30th in Kearney.

Eligibility Operations has filled seventy-five percent of the eligibility staff positions needed for expansion. When hired, each new team member receives approximately thirty days of classroom training and sixty days of field training. The expansion project team is currently developing additional communication and training processes for eligibility staff. This additional training will begin in March with a three-day session for Eligibility Operations management.

An eligibility pilot is underway with six hospitals in Nebraska. The purpose of the pilot is to develop operational processes that allow for more proactive engagement with Medicaid. Two DHHS eligibility team members have been assigned to work at Bryan Hospital in Lincoln. Staff members will be located in more hospitals in the near future. The focus of the pilot will be training on the hospital presumptive program and data collection from inpatient, emergency services, outpatient, and clinic settings.

MLTC is making progress in setting the payment rates for the health plans that will cover the adult expansion group. The final rates and actuary rate certification letter are expected to be delivered by May 1, 2020. MLTC has also been working to complete the 1115 waiver budget neutrality study to demonstrate how the waiver will be budget neutral for the federal government.

MLTC determined pregnant women who will be eligible for Medicaid in the expansion group will receive prime benefits at least until their next annual Medicaid eligibility redetermination.

Discussions continue and are ongoing with our federal and Nebraska partners. Implementation remains on track for October 1, 2020.

For the latest project schedule, please refer to the attached timeline.