

FLORIDA MEDICAID

A Division of the Agency for Health Care Administration

Better Health Care for all Floridians

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH DUDEK
SECRETARY

July 29, 2011

Mr. Richard Jensen, Director
Division of State Demonstrations and Waivers
Center for Medicaid, CHIP, and Survey and Certification
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244

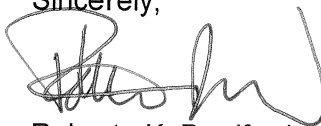
Dear Mr. Jensen:

The State is requesting a 14-day temporary extension of Florida's 1115 Medicaid Reform Waiver as it is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2011. The State is seeking an extension to maintain operations while the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) works with the Office of Management (OMB) regarding the expiration date and funding level of the State's Low Income Pool (LIP). Specifically, CMS informed the State on July 26, 2011, that CMS and OMB were evaluating the termination of all supplemental funding pools with an end date of December 2013, including Florida's LIP which would result in a substantial reduction of LIP funding.

This change was shared with the State for the first time during the conference call. The State was not aware of any concerns from OMB and was surprised by the news. Based on subsequent discussions with CMS, it was noted that this issue would be resolved in the coming days. Due to the critical nature of the funding, the State is requesting the extension of the current waiver to inform all parties and await a final determination by CMS. The State continues to seek a June 2014 expiration date and full funding for LIP for State Fiscal Year 2013-2014. We are disappointed that CMS would choose to make such a material change at the last minute. This temporary extension will ensure continued service delivery to Medicaid recipients while the State awaits CMS's decision.

We appreciate your efforts in working with us on the renewal of this waiver. Should you have any questions, please contact Linda Macdonald at (850) 412-4031.

Sincerely,



Roberta K. Bradford
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid

RKB/lam

cc: Mark Pahl, CMS-CO
Paul Boben, CMS-CO
Joseph Gaiser, CMS-CO
Victoria Wachinno, CMS-CO
Jackie Glaze, CMS-RO

