

Recommendations: Eligibility Determination in Virginia's Medicaid Program

RECOMMENDATION 1

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Code of Virginia to require all financial institutions doing business in Virginia to provide the Department of Medical Assistance Services with financial records for all accounts owned by Medicaid applicants and recipients whose financial resources are subject to an asset limit under Medicaid eligibility requirements (Chapter 2, page 15).

RECOMMENDATION 2

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Virginia Department of Social Services to develop the capability to search for real estate assets through the Virginia Case Management System for all individuals whose assets are subject to an asset limit under Medicaid eligibility requirements (Chapter 2, page 16).

RECOMMENDATION 3

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Department of Medical Assistance Services to modify current policy to direct eligibility workers to apply the same protocols when verifying income for all individuals, including those who report no earned or unearned income (Chapter 2, page 20).

RECOMMENDATION 4

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Departments of Medical Assistance Services and Social Services to implement a process for checking Virginia's new hire database for recent employment when data available from the Virginia Employment Commission at the time of Medicaid application or renewal does not identify wages. The Department of Medical Assistance Services should also work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to gain access to the National Directory of New Hires (Chapter 2, page 21).

RECOMMENDATION 5

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Departments of Medical Assistance Services and Social Services to implement a process for checking wage data from the Virginia Employment Commission six months after application or renewal, in cases where self-attestation was accepted at the time of application or renewal (Chapter 2, page 22).

RECOMMENDATION 6

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Department of Medical Assistance Services to modify current policy to direct eligibility workers to search for unreported assets using all available sources of electronic data, including local real estate property databases, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and Virginia's asset verification system, for all Medicaid applicants and recipients whose assets are subject to an asset limit under Medicaid eligibility requirements (Chapter 2, page 25).

RECOMMENDATION 7

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Virginia Department of Social Services to make the necessary improvements to the Virginia Case Management System so that eligibility workers have the tools to manage their caseload and minimize the number of late applications (Chapter 3, page 36).

RECOMMENDATION 8

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Virginia Department of Social Services to implement the necessary changes to the Virginia Case Management System so that eligibility can be determined at the time of renewal through an automated process (Chapter 3, page 37).

RECOMMENDATION 9

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Department of Medical Assistance Services to amend the Virginia Medicaid application, with approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, so that Medicaid applicants grant permission to use their federal tax returns to perform renewals, unless they opt out (Chapter 3, page 38).

RECOMMENDATION 10

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Department of Medical Assistance Services to amend the Virginia Medicaid application, with approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, so that additional information is provided on the advantages to recipients of granting access to their tax returns for the purpose of renewing their Medicaid eligibility, and so that the request for permission to use federal tax data for eligibility renewals is placed in a more prominent position on the form (Chapter 3, page 39).

RECOMMENDATION 11

The Department of Medical Assistance Services should conduct outreach to recipients who have not granted permission for electronic renewals, to explain the advantages of electronic renewals and provide a mechanism for recipients to grant permission (Chapter 3, page 39).

RECOMMENDATION 12

The Departments of Medical Assistance Services and Social Services should develop a plan for expanding the central processing unit to reduce the backlog of overdue renewals as quickly as is practicable, and to establish a target limit on the number of late renewals each month. The plan should be submitted to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by the beginning of the 2016 General Assembly session (Chapter 3, page 44).

RECOMMENDATION 13

The General Assembly may wish to consider appropriating necessary general funds to implement the plan presented by DMAS for expanding the central processing unit to reduce the backlog of overdue renewals (Chapter 3, page 44).

RECOMMENDATION 14

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Virginia Department of Social Services to develop an objective and data-driven formula for the allocation of state administrative funding to local departments of social services that reflects workload, ability to pay, and other factors that affect performance (Chapter 3, page 46).

RECOMMENDATION 15

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Department of Medical Assistance Services to use data from the Virginia Case Management System to identify the reported assets of deceased Medicaid recipients and to initiate recovery from estates for which the value of the assets is likely to exceed the cost of recovery (Chapter 4, page 53).

RECOMMENDATION 16

The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Department of Medical Assistance Services to use electronic data sources to search for unreported assets of deceased Medicaid recipients and to initiate recovery from estates for which the value of the assets is likely to exceed the cost of recovery (Chapter 4, page 54).
