

Overview

We have been asked to prepare an amendment which would require the Health and Human Services Commission to take certain actions with regard to eligibility certifications.

Required Action

To Article XI, add the following new rider:

____. Eligibility Certifications. It is the intent of the Legislature that all initial eligibility certifications for Health and Human Service eligibility-based programs utilize technology to reduce time required for those deteminations and to reduce error rates. The Health and Human Services Commission shall determine the feasibility of utilizing proven technology for that purpose, and shall implement any such procedures found to be beneficial no later than January 1, 2008.

For re-certification of eligibility-based programs, no later than January 1, 2008 the Commission shall implement procedures to determine the need for a personal interview, based on a system of objective, risk-based factors and conditions. Such procedures shall apply to all re-certifications on a regular and continuous basis, and shall comply with and apply all current federal mandates and guidelines concerning Payment Error Rate Measure (PERM). Such procedures shall measure and control PERM within Medicaid and CHIP to within a 4% error rate, or within any other lower established federal guideline, and shall be designed to permit continuous enrollment for qualified recipients.

In the event the Commission determines to contract with an outside vendor for these services, preference shall be given to any vendor organized in the State of Texas and whose primary business presence is in the State of Texas. Further preference shall be given to any vendor that has, at the time of bidding, successfully implemented in at least one other state the technology offered.