



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

June 21, 2005

Dear Iowan:

Iowa's program to provide medical care for people with limited income but who are not eligible for Medicaid will soon be replaced and expanded. I want to give you some details.

You are receiving this letter because in the last year you received "State Papers" from a county that enabled you to receive health services at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. The State Papers program will be replaced with a new state program called IowaCare on July 1.

I want to assure you that services will continue if you have an ongoing need for care.

If you are receiving health care services under the State Papers program, you need to apply for IowaCare. Enrollment is not automatic. I'm enclosing the application form, which you should complete and then take or mail to your local Iowa Department of Human Services office. The DHS will start processing applications July 1, but you can mail it before then if you wish.

Please help us process your application by attaching the tear-off section on the second page of this letter. This lets the DHS know that you are currently in the State Papers program.

The benefits that you have received at University Hospitals will now go to a wider group of people under IowaCare. Generally, eligible people include:

- People with adjusted household incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, which is about \$2,139/month for a family of two. "Adjusted" means that you get to subtract 20% of all household income that is earned at a job. Single adults and childless couples will be eligible, as well as people with families.
- Everyone in the State Papers program who has an appointment or some other service scheduled in July or August.
- Everyone in the State Papers program with an ongoing need for care even if income exceeds the 200% income limit.

There is one category of State Papers recipients who will not be eligible for IowaCare. These are the people whose household income is above 200% of the federal poverty level AND who received State Papers for the treatment of a non-chronic health issue, such as a broken arm.

To help defray the cost of expanding this benefit to more Iowans, participants in IowaCare will pay a small monthly premium determined by income. It will range from zero to about \$75 a month per covered person.

You'll find that the form is straight-forward and easy to fill out. We have included a stamped envelope but you need to address it to the DHS office in your county. We're in the phone book in the State Government listings, or you can call toll-free 1-877-347-1633 to find the correct address for the office in your area.

If you have questions, call your local Department of Human Services office.

Sincerely,

Eugene J. Gessow / PEB

Gene Gessow, Director
Iowa Medicaid and IowaCare
Iowa Department of Human Services

Tear here and include portion below with your IowaCare application

To the Iowa Department of Human Services

I am currently receiving State Papers services for treatment of ongoing (chronic) health problems. Please take that into consideration as you process my IowaCare application.

Print Name

Signature and Date



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

June 13, 2005

Dear General Relief Director:

As you are aware, the state's indigent care program known as "State Papers" will be replaced by a limited Medicaid expansion program effective July 1. The program, called IowaCare, will provide similar medical services to needy Iowans while drawing much needed additional replacement Medicaid funds from the federal government.

We're excited to launch this new program and we want you to know that your neediest residents will have continuity of care. Generally, most people with household incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (or about \$3,200/month for a family of four) will be eligible. In addition, everyone in the State Papers program who has an appointment or some other service scheduled in July or August will be served. And everyone in the State Papers program who is being treated for a continuing major medical condition will also continue to receive services even if their income doesn't meet the 200% test.

General Relief directors have a long and proud history of helping needy people, and we're eager for your help in getting IowaCare off to a good start.

- First, it would be helpful if you could assist your residents to access IowaCare by distributing applications. While we have kept the application simple, I'm sure some people would also appreciate assistance in completing the IowaCare application. The DHS has the responsibility for determining eligibility for the IowaCare program and will process applications within three working days from receipt at our office.
- Also, when you receive questions, please help us assure that everyone with appointments or ongoing medical treatment in July or August at University Hospitals will be served. The DHS wants to expedite their eligibility determinations to help alleviate their concerns, and to ensure that we do not disrupt planned medical treatment or supply of prescription medications.

We'll be sending you a limited supply of IowaCare applications soon, and we also plan to post a copy that you can download on the DHS web site, www.dhs.state.ia.us. Additional copies will be available at DHS offices.

Applications will not be processed until July 1.

As you may know, under legislation creating IowaCare, General Relief directors may request the DHS to enter into contracts. We'll be happy to do that, but contracts are not necessary for directors to make IowaCare applications available, to assist residents in accessing local DHS offices, and to help residents fill out the forms.

Included with this letter is a document that explains more about IowaCare in a question-answer format. I'm sure there will be some changes, and we'll keep you in the loop as more details are worked out. If you have questions relating to specific service or prescription medications that are covered under the new program, please call Deb Johnson at (515) 725-1012.

Again, thanks for all that you do to help Iowa's needy people.

Sincerely,

Eugene I. Gessow
Medicaid Director