

249J.8 Expansion population members financial participation.

1. Beginning July 1, 2005, each expansion population member whose family income equals or exceeds one hundred percent of the federal poverty level as defined by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines published by the United States department of health and human services shall pay a monthly premium not to exceed one-twelfth of five percent of the member's annual family income, and each expansion population member whose family income is less than one hundred percent of the federal poverty level as defined by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines published by the United States department of health and human services shall pay a monthly premium not to exceed one-twelfth of two percent of the member's annual family income. All premiums shall be paid on the last day of the month of coverage. The department shall deduct the amount of any monthly premiums paid by an expansion population member for benefits under the healthy and well kids in Iowa program when computing the amount of monthly premiums owed under this subsection. An expansion population member shall pay the monthly premium during the entire period of the member's enrollment. Regardless of the length of enrollment, the member is subject to payment of the premium for a minimum of four consecutive months. However, an expansion population member who complies with the requirement of payment of the premium for a minimum of four consecutive months during a consecutive twelve-month period of enrollment shall be deemed to have complied with this requirement for the subsequent consecutive twelve-month period of enrollment and shall only be subject to payment of the monthly premium on a month-by-month basis. Timely payment of premiums, including any arrearages accrued from prior enrollment, is a condition of receiving any expansion population services. Premiums collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the premiums subaccount of the account for health care transformation created pursuant to section 249J.23. An expansion population member shall also pay the same copayments required of other adult recipients of medical assistance.

2. The department may reduce the required out-of-pocket expenditures for an individual expansion population member based upon the member's increased wellness activities such as smoking cessation or compliance with the personal health improvement plan completed by the member. The department shall also waive the required out-of-pocket expenditures for an individual expansion population member based upon a hardship that would accrue from imposing such required expenditures. Information regarding the premium payment obligation and the hardship exemption, including the process by which a prospective enrollee may apply for the hardship exemption, shall be provided to a prospective enrollee at the time of application. The prospective enrollee shall acknowledge, in writing, receipt and understanding of the information provided.

3. The department shall submit to the governor and the general assembly by March 15, 2006, a design for each of the following:

a. An insurance cost subsidy program for expansion population members who have access to employer health insurance plans, provided that the design shall require that no less than fifty percent of the cost of such insurance shall be paid by the employer.

b. A health care account program option for individuals eligible for enrollment in the expansion population. The health care account program option shall be available only to adults who have been enrolled in the expansion population for at least twelve consecutive calendar months. Under the health care account program option, the individual would agree to exchange one year's receipt of benefits under the expansion population, to which the individual would otherwise be entitled, for a credit to obtain any medical assistance program covered service up to a specified amount. The balance in the health care account at the end of the year, if any, would be available for withdrawal by the individual.

4. The department shall track the impact of the out-of-pocket expenditures on expansion population enrollment and shall report the findings on at least a quarterly basis to the medical assistance projections and assessment council established pursuant to section 249J.20. The findings shall include estimates of the number of expansion population members complying with payment of required out-of-pocket expenditures,

the number of expansion population members not complying with payment of required out-of-pocket expenditures and the reasons for noncompliance, any impact as a result of the out-of-pocket requirements on the provision of services to the populations previously served, the administrative time and cost associated with administering the out-of-pocket requirements, and the benefit to the state resulting from the out-of-pocket expenditures. To the extent possible, the department shall track the income level of the member, the health condition of the member, and the family status of the member relative to the out-of-pocket information.

2005 Acts, ch 167, §8, 66; 2005 Acts, ch 175, §117; 2006 Acts, ch 1184, §115, 127

Footnotes

Healthy and well kids in Iowa program, see chapter 514I