



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

August 20, 2015

Tim Engelhardt, Director
Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Engelhardt:

In response to your letter of July 16, 2015, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is expressing its intent to continue participation with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the Financial Alignment Demonstration that integrates care and services for people who are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Michigan's demonstration, MI Health Link, will implement its last phase of passive enrollment on September 1, 2015, and it is anticipated that over half of the eligible populations in the demonstration regions will be enrolled at that time.

Given the administrative and operational challenges of integrating Medicare and Medicaid, we believe that implementation in Michigan has been successful to this point and look forward to continuing the demonstration through the additional two years that are proposed. With prospect of continuing the demonstration for a full five year period through December 2020, MDHHS believes that there is opportunity to engage and enroll many of the individuals who have chosen to opt-out or disenroll from MI Health Link because of misunderstanding or fear of enrollment in a new program. We believe that an additional two years will provide better opportunity for both CMS and the state to determine the successes of the program, as well as those areas in which improvements could be made based on the experiences gained. Also, extending the demonstration enhances enrollee protections by ensuring that those who choose to enroll have ample continuity of care.

We look forward to our continued work with you and your staff. This demonstration has been an example of state and federal partnership at its best as the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office and MI Health Link staff worked through implementation challenges together. We thank you for your commitment to making this project a success.

Sincerely,

Kathy Stiffner, Acting Director
Medical Services Administration