

**Supporting Statement A**  
**Medicaid State Plan Base Plan Pages**  
**CMS-179, OMB 0938-0193**

**BACKGROUND**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) works in partnership with States to implement Medicaid, which provides health coverage to millions of Americans. Medicaid is rooted in Federal statute (Title XIX of the Social Security Act), associated regulations and policy guidance, and the approved State plan documents that serve as a contract between CMS and States about how Medicaid will be operated in that State (or Territory). CMS works collaboratively with States (including States and Territories) in the ongoing management of programs and policies.

This June 2021 iteration proposes to revise the Transmittal template. The attached Crosswalk details the changes. The revisions have no burden implications.

Although the changes have no impact on our time estimates, we are adjusting our cost estimates based on more recent wage figures. Overall, we estimate a cost increase of \$112,896. See section 15 of this Supporting Statement for details.

**A. JUSTIFICATION**

**1. Need and Legal Basis**

Section 1901 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1936) requires States to establish a State plan for medical assistance that is approved by the Secretary to carry out the purpose of Title XIX. The State plan is a comprehensive document (approximately 700 pages) comprised of semi-structured templates developed by CMS and completed by State Medicaid agencies. The State plan functions as a contract between the State and Federal government, describing how the State will implement its program in accordance with Federal laws and regulations in order to secure Federal funding.

When a State wants to change its Medicaid program, the State Medicaid agency is responsible for developing an amendment submission for CMS approval, also called a State plan amendment or SPA. The State completes the templates relevant to the program change it seeks and submits the SPA to CMS for approval. The SPA submission includes a CMS-179 transmittal form and the relevant SPA templates the State wishes to update or revise. A State may amend one or more of the plan pages at a time. The templates are semi-structured forms that correspond to the statutory and regulatory Medicaid requirements. The data structure CMS provides in the forms allows States to develop SPAs more efficiently by including only relevant information. The plan pages are organized by subject matters which include Medicaid eligibility, services, payment for services, and general and personnel administration.

When CMS receives the SPA, it has 90 calendar days to approve or disapprove the SPA, or formally request additional information. If CMS does not act within 90 calendar days, the SPA is

deemed approved. If CMS formally requests additional information, the review clock stops until the State submits a formal response. When the State formally responds, a second 90-day review clock begins, and CMS must either approve or disapprove the SPA within 90 calendar days. For a State to receive Medicaid Title XIX funding, there must be an approved Title XIX State plan.

## 2. Information Users

State Medicaid agencies complete the plan pages and submit them to CMS. CMS reviews the information to determine if the State has met all of the requirements of the provisions the States choose to implement. If the requirements are met, CMS will approve the amendments to the State's Medicaid plan giving the State the authority to implement the flexibilities. If the requirements are not met, CMS will work with the state to modify the submission so that it can move to approval. For a State to receive Medicaid Title XIX funding, there must be an approved Title XIX State plan.

## 3. Improved Information Technology

The current collection is electronic in the sense that SPAs are normally submitted to CMS via e-mail, generally including either Microsoft Word templates or a scanned version of the paper amendment. CMS is currently developing a structured data system called Medicaid and Chip Program (MACPro) that will become the electronic submission and processing system for this collection and related information. As the new MACPro templates are completed, portions of this collection will be transferred from this collection to the MACPro PRA (OneMAC), CMS-10434, OMB 0938-1188.

## 4. Duplication

There is no duplication of similar information.

## 5. Small Business

State plan amendments are prepared and submitted by states. Consequently, there is no burden on small businesses.

## 6. Less Frequent Collection

Once any amendment is approved, there is no need to submit additional amendments unless the State initiates a change. This State plan amendment process is rooted in the statutory language found in Title XIX and has been used since the inception of Medicaid in 1965.

## 7. Special Circumstances

There are no special circumstances that would require an information collection to be conducted in a manner that requires respondents to:

- Report information to the agency more often than quarterly;

- Prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;
- Submit more than an original and two copies of any document;
- Retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;
- Collect data in connection with a statistical survey that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study,
- Use a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
- Include a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or
- Submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

#### 8. Federal Register Notice/Prior Consultation

The 60-day notice published in the Federal Register on June 1, 2021 (86 FR 29265). Comments must be received by August 2, 2021.

#### 9. Payment/Gift to Respondents

There is no payment or gift to respondents. However, for a State to receive Medicaid Title XIX funding, there must be an approved Title XIX State plan.

#### 10. Confidentiality

The Medicaid State plan is public information. No assurance of confidentiality has been provided to respondents.

#### 11. Sensitive Questions

There are no sensitive questions associated with this collection. Specifically, the collection does not solicit questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

#### 12. Burden Estimate

##### *Wage Estimates*

To derive average costs, we used data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' May 2020 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates for all salary estimates ([http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm)). In this regard, the following table presents the mean hourly wage, the cost of fringe benefits and overhead (calculated at 100 percent of salary), and the adjusted hourly wage. The wage is a comparable position to State employees likely

responsible for completing and returning the templates.

Occupation Title	Occupation Code	Mean Hourly Wage (\$/hr)	Fringe Benefits and Overhead (at 100%) (\$/hr)	Adjusted Hourly Wage (\$/hr)
Business Operations Specialist	13-1000	37.66	37.66	75.32

As indicated, we are adjusting our employee hourly wage estimates by a factor of 100 percent. This is necessarily a rough adjustment, both because fringe benefits and overhead costs vary significantly from employer to employer, and because methods of estimating these costs vary widely from study to study. Nonetheless, we believe that doubling the hourly wage to estimate total cost is a reasonably accurate estimation method.

### *Burden Estimates*

There will be a total of 56 States and territories as possible respondents for this request, all of whom made the required entry when the election of Medicaid in its State was made. There is no particular methodology or reason why any particular number of States and territories would choose to amend the aforementioned provisions of its Medicaid State plan. The collection is required only if a State determines that a change to its Medicaid program warrants a change in the original response.

If however, each of the 56 respondents would submit an average of 20 responses per year, this would result in 1,120 responses per year. (56 States and territories x 20 responses/yr).

We estimate it would take 20 hours at \$75.32/hr for a business operations specialist to complete and return the templates. In aggregate we estimate an annual burden of 22,400 hours (1,120 responses x 20 hr/response) at a cost of \$1,687,168 (22,400 hr x \$75.32/hr) or \$30,128 per State or territory (\$1,687,168/56).

### *Collection of Information Instruments and Instruction/Guidance Documents*

As indicated, this June 2021 iteration proposes to revise the Transmittal template.

#### Transmittal and Notice of Approval of State Plan Material (Revised)

Exhibit A	Sections 2.1 through 2.7 (States) (No Changes)
Exhibit A1	Sections 2.1 through 2.7 (Territories) (No Changes)
Exhibit AA	Section 4.19 (No Changes)
Exhibit AB	Section 4.19(e) (No Changes)
Exhibit AC	Section 4.19(f) (No Changes)
Exhibit AD	Section 4.19(g) (No Changes)
Exhibit AE	Section 4.19(h) (No Changes)
Exhibit AF	Section 4.19(i) (No Changes)
Exhibit AG	Section 4.19(k)(1) (No Changes)

Exhibit D and E	Attachment 2.2-A and Supplements 1 – 3 (No Changes)
Exhibit DP	Section 4.19(b) Attachment 4.19 B (No Changes)
Exhibit F and G	Attachment 2.6-A and Supplements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5a, 6, 7, 8, 8a, 8b, 8c, 9b, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 (States) (No Changes)
Exhibit H and J	Attachment 2.6-A and Supplements 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8a, 8b, 8c, 9b, 11, 12, 14, and 15 (Territories) (No Changes)
Exhibit N	Attachment 4.19-B Section 24 (No Changes)
Exhibit O	Attachment 4.19-B Supplement 1 (No Changes)
Exhibit P	Section 4.19(c) (No Changes)
Exhibit R S T U	Sections 4.31 through 4.34 (No Changes)
Exhibit Y	Section 4.19(d) (No Changes)

### 13. Capital Costs

There are no capital costs associated with this information collection.

### 14. Costs to Federal Government

To derive average costs, we used data from OPM’s 2021 Salary Table for the locality pay area of Washington-Baltimore-Northern Virginia ([https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2021/DCB\\_h.pdf](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2021/DCB_h.pdf)). Our estimate assumes a base hourly wage of \$52.47/hr for a GS-13 step 3. To include the cost of fringe benefits (calculated at 100 percent of salary), our adjusted hourly wage estimate is \$106.00/hr (\$53.00/hr x 2).

The cost is estimated to be \$356,160 (\$106.00/hr x 1,120 possible yearly amendments x 3 hr per amendment on average).

### 15. Program/Burden Changes

This June 2021 iteration proposes to revise the Transmittal template. The attached Crosswalk details the changes. The revisions have no burden implications.

Although the changes have no impact on our time estimates, we are adjusting our cost estimates based on more recent wage figures by +5.04 (from \$70.28/hr to \$75.32/hr) based on more recent BLS wage figures. Overall, we estimate a cost increase of \$112,896.

\$1,687,168 (22,400 hr x \$75.32/hr) Proposed Adjustment
<u>- \$1,574,272 (22,400 hr x \$70.28/hr) Active Burden</u>
\$112,896

### 16. Publication and Tabulation Dates

Medicaid State plans are public documents generally available on the Internet. However, there are no plans to publish the information specifically for statistical use.

### 17. Expiration Date

The expiration date is displayed on the SPA templates along with our PRA Disclosure Statement.

18. Certification Statement

There are no exceptions.

**B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

The use of statistical methods does not apply for purposes of this form.