Classic Medicaid Information

	Oldest Document	Total Cases
Spend Down Program	04/26	87
Daily Spenddown Emergent Cases	04/29	1
Alien Emergency Medical Program	04/26	4

Backlog Reduction Project

- April 30th – 27,187 documents and pending client actions
- Current ready-to-work date: 12.9 days
- Due to budget constraints, OT is only being offered one day per month

Apple Health Expansion

HCA is currently developing plans for implementing the Apple Health Expansion program to adults regardless of immigration status.
CSD will determine eligibility for customers aged 65 or older.
HCA will determine eligibility for anyone under the age of 65.
As we get closer to the July 1, 2024, implementation date, a workgroup will be established to determine how this work will be routed and who will determine eligibility for this program.
Eligibility criteria is similar but not identical to our Classic Medicaid population:

- Washington state resident
- Countable income under 138% FPL
- No resource limit
- Does not qualify for other Apple Health programs based on immigration status

There will be a program cap based on the funding available.

Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund (PEAF)

- As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund (PEAF) was created to provide additional assistance to low-income families with eligible children during the COVID-19 crisis. Washington state received additional PEAF funds to help children who did not receive the original payment in 2022.
- PEAF is a one-time, cash payment for households with minor children.
- There is no application process:
    - to qualify for PEAF, families with minor children must be active on TANF, SFA, SNAP, FAP, or TFA in the month of May,
    - Have income under 75% of the 2022 FPL and,
    - Not have received the PEAF in May of 2022
- Payments of $22 per eligible child will be issued on May 1st and will end when the funds are exhausted or though May 8th, whichever comes first.

EBT Notify Texts

- Back in March we mentioned the department has created a process to text customers to inform them of suspected fraudulent activity on their EBT account and recommend EBT card replacement or to change their pin.

- The Integrity Assurance Team is also doing outreach to clients who do not take an immediate mitigation action to protect their account.
- They will attempt to call the client 3 days after the text was sent and review the client account for mitigation action. If no action has been taken, the PIN on the card is set to NONE and client will need to reestablish their PIN to use the card.
- The client should be encouraged to update their PIN and not use the previous PIN since it might be compromised

Sun Bucks

- Summer EBT, now publicly known as SUN Bucks, is a new permanent program authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 that provides **$120** in additional food assistance to low-income children during the summer period who would have otherwise received free or reduced-price meals in school.
- To be automatically eligible for SUN Bucks, children must be either be:
    - Enrolled in a school participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program in a household that meets income requirements for free and reduced-price school meals; or
    - Age 8 through 18 (the compulsory age for Washington state) and receiving SNAP or TANF anytime between July 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024.
- An application process will be available for children not directly certified. Eligible children include those enrolled in an NSLP participating school with household income under the 185% FPL

Sun Bucks (continued)

- SUN Bucks is like Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) in that it:
    - Provides a benefit to children to replace meals they would have otherwise received in school,
    - Issues benefits on individual cards to each eligible child, and
    - Will be administered through our third-party contractor, Accenture (*for 2024 and 2025 while we work to implement in our internal eligibility system*).
- SUN Bucks differs from P-EBT in that:
    - SUN Bucks is a permanent program – PEBT was a temporary program in response to a public health emergency and has ended.
    - SUN Bucks has a one-time $120 benefit to each eligible child, where benefit amount for P-EBT varied.
    - SUN Bucks has an income limit of 185% FPL for children in Community Eligibility Provision schools where all students in CEP schools automatically qualified for P-EBT.
    - SUN Bucks benefits are expunged 122 days after issuance when PEBT expungement rules matched food benefit expungements 274 days after nonuse.
- More info can be found at www.dshs.wa.gov/sunbucks

Helping clients fill out an Application or Review

- As a reminder when helping client's fill out an application or Eligibility Review online, please make sure you are using the client's name in the "enter your full name (applicant or Authorized Representative)" field.
- Even if you put your name/organization in the Authorized Representative section, this section needs to have the client's name to be considered a valid application and to validate you as the Authorized Rep.
- You may put your name in the "Who helped you fill out this form?" field.
- We have seen a few applications from different agencies that have filled this out incorrectly. Unfortunately our line staff didn't catch this error and approved benefits, which in turn creates an overpayment to the client since we don't have a valid application.

Questions?

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