



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Medical Assistance Services

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September 1, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.,
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Stephen D. Newman
Chairman, Senate Education and Health

The Honorable S. Chris Jones
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Robert D. Orrock, Sr.
Chairman, House Health, Welfare and Institutions

FROM: Cynthia B. Jones 

SUBJECT: Estimated number of Virginians who are eligible but not enrolled in the Virginia Medicaid program

Item 310N of the 2017 Appropriation Act requires:

The Department of Medical Assistance Services to report “on the estimated number of Virginians who are eligible but not enrolled in the Virginia Medicaid program as of September 1 of each year.”

Should you have any questions or need additional information about this report, please feel free to contact me at (804) 786-8099.

CBJ/
Enc.

pc: The Honorable William A. Hazel, Jr., MD, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Annual Estimated Number of Virginians Who Are Eligible but Not Enrolled in the Virginia Medicaid Program

A Report to the Virginia General Assembly

September 1, 2017

Report Mandate:

2017 Appropriation Act, Item 310 N. The Department of Medical Assistance Services shall report on the estimated number of Virginians who are eligible but not enrolled in the Virginia Medicaid program as of September 1 of each year.

Virginia's Uninsured

According to the Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF), the uninsurance rate in Virginia among the nonelderly declined from 12.5 percent in 2014 to 10.7 percent in 2015. In 2015, the most recent data available, this translated into an estimated 747,000 uninsured individuals in Virginia. Of those individuals, approximately 654,000 individuals were over age 18 and approximately 93,000 individuals were children ages 0 to 18.

Adults Who Are Eligible but Not Enrolled in Virginia Medicaid

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) does not directly track the number of Virginians eligible but not enrolled in the Medicaid program. Medicaid eligibility is complex and takes into account a number of factors; therefore, census-level income data is not sufficient to determine whether an individual is eligible for the program. However, the Department conducted an analysis of available information including the recent increase in Medicaid enrollment and the decrease in the number of uninsured and estimates that 28,000 adults in Virginia are likely to be eligible for Medicaid, but are not enrolled.

From July 2014 through July 2017 Medicaid enrollment grew and the number of adults with full coverage enrolled in Virginia Medicaid increased by over 34,000 enrollees. It is likely that the "Individual Mandate" to enroll in health insurance required by the *Affordable Care Act*, increased community outreach, and transfer of applications from the federal Marketplace boosted Medicaid enrollment.

Uninsured Children in Virginia

In Virginia, Medicaid and FAMIS cover approximately 590,000 children each month. It is estimated, however, that thousands more are eligible for these programs but remain uninsured. Using 2015 data compiled by the VHCF's *2017 Profile of Virginia's Uninsured*, DMAS estimates that approximately 60,000 of the 93,000 uninsured Virginia children would be eligible for either Medicaid or FAMIS because their family's household income falls at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL).

About DMAS and Medicaid

DMAS' mission is to ensure Virginia's Medicaid enrollees receive high quality and cost effective health care.

Medicaid plays a critical role in the lives of over a million Virginians, providing health care for those most in need. Medicaid enrollees include children, pregnant women, parents and care takers, older adults and individuals with disabilities. Virginians must meet income thresholds and other eligibility criteria before qualifying to receive Medicaid benefits.

Medicaid covers primary and specialty health care, inpatient care, and behavioral health and addiction and recovery treatment services. Medicaid also covers long term services and supports, making it possible for thousands of Virginians to remain in their homes or to access residential and nursing home care.

Quick Medicaid facts:

- Covers 1 in 8 Virginians
- Covers 1 in 3 births and 33% of children
- Supports 2 in 3 nursing facility residents

Virginia Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are administered by the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) and are jointly funded by Virginia and the federal government under the Title XIX and Title XXI of the Social Security Act. Virginia generally receives \$1 of federal matching funds for every \$1 Virginia spends on Medicaid.

As part of Governor McAuliffe's *A Healthy Virginia* effort, in September 2014, Virginia endeavored to enroll an additional 35,000 children in Medicaid and FAMIS. In September 2017, DMAS surpassed this goal, enrolling over 38,000 additional children during this time period. DMAS and its community partners will utilize the momentum garnered from the outreach efforts to continue to reach as many eligible but unenrolled children as possible.

Additionally, prior to the *Affordable Care Act*, federal law prohibited dependents of public employees from enrolling in FAMIS even if they were financially eligible. Virginia now has federal approval to enroll children of eligible state employees in FAMIS, improving their access to affordable, quality, comprehensive health

care. Permanent regulations giving state employees access to FAMIS became effective in June of 2016.

Summary

In 2015, Virginia's total uninsured population consists of approximately 747,000 individuals. A portion of this uninsured population is eligible for Medicaid or FAMIS coverage. Estimates indicate that approximately 28,000 uninsured adults are eligible for Medicaid and 60,000 uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid or FAMIS coverage.

Lack of insurance has a destructive impact on public health in the Commonwealth. DMAS will continue its outreach and education efforts and support enrollment through the Federal Marketplace to help alleviate this problem.