



COMMENTS DUE SOON ON FIVE KEY HHSC DOCUMENTS

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has posted five important documents on its web site for public comment: revision of the applications for public benefits; the TANF state plan; a Medicaid Waiver concept paper; and two draft Requests for Proposals relating to modernization of the eligibility and enrollment system for public benefits. We know this is a busy time of the year for everyone, but we urge you to take the time to submit comments to HHSC on these important issues.

Revision of the Applications for Public Benefits: Preliminary comments due Friday, December 14.

HHSC is revising and redesigning benefit application forms to make them easier to understand and complete. The applications being revised include Forms H-1010-A/B (the Food Stamps/Medicaid/TANF application and renewal) ; H-1010-E (the integrated application and renewal for all benefits); H-1200 and H-1200-A (application and renewal for nursing home and other institutional care, and Medicaid community-based and waiver programs); H-1200-EZ (application for Medicare Saving Programs and Medicaid community-based programs, excluding waiver programs); H1200-PFS (property and financial statement for people living in state facilities); and H-1014 and H-1015 (application and renewal for Children's Medicaid, CHIP, and CHIP perinatal coverage). These forms and directions for submitting comments are online at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/APP_Redesign.html. You can submit comments through December 14 by e-mail at HHS.Communications@hhsc.state.tx.us or by fax at 512-487-3393.

TANF State Plan: Comments due December 18.

HHSC is required to submit a state plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant each year to the federal government. The TANF block grant funds cash assistance, employment services, and child care for extremely poor families with children. The plan describes how the state will administer the block grant and identifies any policy changes from the previous year. A draft of this plan is available for public comment through December 18, 2007. The plan is online at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/TANF_StatePlan.pdf. Comments may be submitted by e-mailing kim.dutchover@hhsc.state.tx.us or by mailing the comments to: Kim Dutchover, HHSC, Program and Policy, 909 W. 45th St., P.O. Box 12668, Austin, TX 78711-2668.

Medicaid Waiver concept paper: Comments due December 28.

HHSC has developed a draft Medicaid waiver concept paper as part of its implementation of SB 10. **This is a major proposal which could potentially create programs to provide health coverage for uninsured Texas adults under 200% of poverty.** Public input is critical to make sure the resulting programs provide good benefits at affordable price. Input and comments will be considered in the development of the state's waiver. The paper and directions for submitting comments are at <http://www.hhs.state.tx.us/medicaid/reform.shtml>. You may submit comments to medreform@hhsc.state.tx.us through December 28.

Draft RFP #528-08-0135: Eligibility Support Services. Comments due December 31, 5:00 p.m.

HHSC is seeking a vendor to propose a call center system to support eligibility determination for CHIP, Medicaid, Food Stamps, TANF. This draft RFP describes a contract under which the vendor(s) will perform similar functions to those done by Accenture under the now defunct Texas Access Alliance (TAA) contract. When HHSC terminated its contract with Accenture in March, it awarded an interim contract to Maximus to provide call center services and process CHIP applications. Comments are due by 5:00 pm, December 31, and must be submitted electronically to steve.bailey@hhsc.state.tx.us on a comment form developed by HHSC. The comment form and RFP are online at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Contract/529080135/rfp_home.html.

Draft RFP #529-08-0134: Document Processing Services. Comments due December 31.

HHSC is procuring the mail/document processing component of the call center system separately from the eligibility support services outlined RFP #528-08-0135. Under the draft RFP, the vendor would receive and process inbound mail and scan documents related to eligibility for CHIP, Medicaid, Food Stamps, and TANF. Comments are due by 5:00 pm, December 31, and must be submitted electronically to steve.bailey@hhsc.state.tx.us on a comment form developed by HHSC. The comment form and RFP are online at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Contract/529080134/rfp_home.html.

To learn more, sign up for e-mails, or make a donation, go to www.cppp.org.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization committed to improving public policies to better the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans.