

The Work Number

The use and integration of the work number between HCPF and CDHS

Presented by:

Barry Pardus, Deputy Director Office of Economic Security, CDHS
Lisa Pera, Deputy Eligibility Division Director, HCPF

The Work Number - HCPF



Overview of HCPF Integration

- CBMS communicates directly with The Work Number (TWN) through an interface.
 - Income verification requests are sent by CBMS at application
 - Renewals are batched monthly for income verification
- Waterfall approach utilizes the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) Federal Data Services Hub (FDSH) as a primary source
 - Since Equifax provides the data to FDSH, they are able to filter for duplicate data and only provide what is not available through FDSH.
- Average response time for FDSH is 2-3 days. TWN is >1 second
- The project took about 1 year to complete
- TWN and FDSH Income data is used for Medical Assistance Eligibility determinations only



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

HCPF Background

- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provided states with options for streamlining verifications using interfaces, including income
 - Equifax approached the Department to use this real-time interface in 2013 but it was not possible at that time.
 - Another budget request was submitted in 2018 through OIT, but denied.
- The Department continued to rely on significantly delayed income verification which provided several months coverage for individuals not truly eligible for Medicaid or CHP+.
- In early 2019 compelling data was pulled from the Department and from Equifax to demonstrate cost savings and submit a budget request. This budget request was approved and provided the funding necessary for implementation.



HCPF Implementation

- Funding and Ongoing Costs
 - In FY 2020-21 R-12 HCPF was appropriated \$3.3M TF (\$1M GF)
 - For the last 6 months, HCPF average costs were \$120,000/month
 - Costs are not passed on to counties
 - Projected savings have not yet been realized due to the Public Health Emergency and Continuous Coverage requirements
 - The cost to build the integration was approximately \$865,000 using pool hours
- County and Stakeholder input was solicited throughout implementation
 - Periodic webinar updates
 - Standing meetings such as Work Plan Subcommittee and Economic Security SubPAC



The Work Number - CDHS



CDHS - Current Agreement

- CDHS holds the contract on behalf of the counties and HCPF
- 43 participating counties (IGAs between State & County, IA with HCPF)
- 510,000 guaranteed income verifications
- \$6.65/income verification
- \$3,000/month account Service Fee
- \$3.4 Million
- Expires May 31, 2023



CDHS - Funding

- For SNAP, 50% Federal, 30% State and 20% County funding (County Admin through CFMS)
- TANF - Federal Block Grant (County Allocation through CFMS)
- AF - General Fund & OAP Cash Fund (Admin through CFMS)
- *Child Support - (Not in CBMS)*
- *Other Costs (CCAP, LEAP, QA)*



CDHS - Breakdown of Verifications by Program

- SNAP - 70%
- TANF/AF - 6%

Not in CBMS

- *Child Support* - 14%
- *CCAP* - 5%
- *LEAP/QA* - 5%



CDHS - Future Costs & Benefits of Integration

- Increase State share of costs (CBMS project cost, etc.)
- Access equity for all Colorado Counties
- More efficient and effective for eligibility technicians
- Less error prone (Timeliness & Accuracy)
- Reduces burden on clients



Questions?

Contact Info

Barry Pardus

Deputy Director, Office of Economic Security, CDHS

Barry.Pardus@state.co.us

Lisa Pera

Deputy Eligibility Division Director, HCPF

Lisa.Pera@state.co.us

Thank you!