



Susana Martinez, Governor
Brent Earnest, Secretary
Nancy Smith-Leslie, Director

January 30, 2018

The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) is providing this notice for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding a proposed amendment to the New Mexico State Plan, State Plan Amendment (SPA) 18-001. The Department, through this State Plan Amendment, is changing the amount of home equity that will be used in determining eligibility for Medicaid long-term care assistance by lowering the allowed home equity from the federal maximum of \$840,000 to the federal minimum of \$560,000. Home equity is the value of a home minus the total amount owed on it in mortgages, liens, and other encumbrances.

The home equity amount will continue to be increased each year by the urban component of the consumer price index as required by the State Plan. If an applicant's or recipient's home equity value exceeds the \$560,000 amount allowed, the entire valued amount of his or her home is a countable resource. Changing the home equity exclusion requires a State Plan Amendment that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) must approve. A draft of that State Plan Amendment is available as indicated below. It is the intent of HSD to file the State Plan Amendment by March 1, 2018, requesting an effective date of March 1, 2018.

The primary reason for this change is to have more appropriate determination for Medicaid eligibility for long-term care assistance while minimally affecting those who have already been determined to be eligible. No significant financial impact is expected and it is believed the change will affect few, if any, current recipients.

OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW DOCUMENTS AND MAKE COMMENTS: Medicaid providers, Medicaid recipients, and other interested parties are invited to make comments on this proposal. Draft State Plan Amendments may be found on the Department's website at:

<http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/public-notices-proposed-rule-and-waiver-changes-and-opportunities-to-comment.aspx>. SPA 18-001 Home Equity

A written copy of these proposed documents may be requested by contacting the HSD Medical Assistance Division (HSD/MAD) in Santa Fe at (505) 827-6252.

Recorded comments may be left by calling (505) 827-1337. Electronic comments may be submitted to madrules@state.nm.us. Written, electronic and recorded comments will be given the same consideration as oral testimony. All comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. MST, February 28, 2018. Written or e-mailed comments are preferred because they become part of the record associated with these changes.

Interested persons may address written comments to:

Human Services Department
Office of the Secretary
ATTN: Medical Assistance Division Public Comments
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Copies of all comments will be made available by HSD/MAD upon request by providing copies directly to a requestor or by making them available on the HSD/MAD website or at a location within the county of the requestor.