



Media Release

Contact:

**Amy Webb, Director of Communications
(501) 682-8650**

For Immediate Release

May 29, 2014

DHS Sending Notices to Some Health Care Independence Program Clients

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) is notifying 4,798 individuals that their Health Care Independence Program/Private Option coverage will end effective May 31 because the federal government incorrectly included their information among applications of eligible individuals.

While reviewing application information from the federal government, DHS Division of County Operations (DCO) staff noticed missing information and income levels that would exclude people from Health Care Independence Program coverage.

After questions were raised by DCO staff, the federal government notified us that the state had been sent data for people whose applications were “pending verification.” Arkansas should only receive applications for people who have been determined eligible and that have been fully verified.

To ensure only eligible individuals are enrolled, DCO sent out the above-mentioned notification letters.

“We regret that people are in this position and may be confused by the letters,” said Amy Webb, DHS Communications Director. “Arkansas acted in good faith after receiving initial notification of eligibility from the federal government, but it appears those notifications were premature.”

Some of the people who received letters may, in fact, be eligible, but must go to www.healthcare.gov and provide any information needed to complete the verification process. Others may instead be eligible for coverage through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace and should return to www.healthcare.gov. Loss of Health Care Independence Program coverage is a qualifying event that will allow people to return to www.healthcare.gov even though the open enrollment period has ended. Individuals who complete the application process and are determined eligible for the Health Care Independence Program will receive retroactive Medicaid coverage and, therefore, will not have a gap in services.

If people have questions about their coverage, they should call 1-855-372-1084 or visit a local county office.

###