

TEFRA: Annual Public Forum



**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES**

11/17/21 PRESENTATION

Purpose of This Public Forum

- TEFRA (The Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act) operates as a section 1115 demonstration waiver.
- Federal waiver regulations require an annual public forum to solicit comments on the progress of the demonstration waiver.
- Public will have an opportunity to provide comments.
- Forum summary will be included in quarterly and annual reports to CMS.



TEFRA Overview

- Medicaid program that helps families with children, younger than 19 years old, who have a disability and receive care in their homes rather than an institution.
- The TEFRA program can help pay for the cost of those services for eligible children.
- Families pay a premium on a sliding scale, depending on the parent/guardian's income.



Are We Eligible for TEFRA Coverage?

Approval for the TEFRA program is based these three criteria:

1. Financial Eligibility
2. Disability
3. Medical Necessity



Disability Requirement

- Child must meet the Social Security Administration's (SSA) definition of disabled.
- If the child has received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) within one year prior to applying for TEFRA and continues to have the disability but lost the SSI benefits because of an increase in his or her parents' income, the child may still qualify for TEFRA.



Disability Requirement

- If SSA has not established a disability, then the Medical Review Team (MRT) will review the child's medical records to establish whether the child has a disability.
- Disability determinations are made by using the Social Security Administrations guidelines.
- MRT requests a form asking to identify the child's physician and other health care providers.
- MRT reviews medical records provided by the child's health care providers to make the disability decision.



Medical Necessity and Appropriateness of Care Requirement

- The child must have a medical condition that would require institutional placement.
- Medical necessity is also based on services that improve or maintain a child's health or prevent a child's health from getting worse.



Medical Necessity and Appropriateness of Care Requirement

- After the child is determined disabled, the TEFRA Committee then determines what appropriate medical services need to be provided and if those would be available to the child in the home.
- Estimated cost of the care cannot exceed the estimated cost of care for the child in an institution.

Financial Requirement

- Child cannot have personal income that exceeds the Long-Term Care Medicaid limit of \$2,382.
- Child cannot have countable resources that exceed \$2,000.
- Parent/guardian's income and resources are not used to determine financial eligibility of the child.



2020 TERFRA Enrollment Summary

In 2020, there were a total of
6,155 TERFRA Enrollees.



Health Care Quality, Outcomes and Access

- Participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with the following on a scale from 0 (“worst possible”) to 10 (“best possible”).

	2020	2019	2018
Health care professional	9.22	9.17	9.04
Health care	9.01	8.98	8.92
Treatment or counseling	8.41	8.11	8.19
Customer service	6.90	5.89	6.26
Application process	7.30	7.30	6.96
TEFRA program	8.43	8.22	8.04

TEFRA Changes

- Reduced the initial TEFRA payment requirement from two months to one month of premium.
- Removed the quarterly invoicing option/process and require all invoices to be monthly.
- Updated invoices and notices to include additional contact information.
- Distributed a one-time letter to all guardians explaining the invoicing process changes.
- Sending new letter to guardians when a premium changes due to the annual income review.
- Created a TEFRA account summary notice that can be sent to a guardian upon request.
- Updated the TEFRA invoices to make them more user friendly.



How do I contact TEFRA?

General TEFRA Information?

TEFRA Payment Information?

Application Status and Eligibility?

Medical Claim Status?



General TEFRA Information

800-482-5431 or
800-482-8988

General TEFRA Information
can be provided through
AFMC.

1-855-372-1084



TEFRA Payment Unit

If you have TEFRA billing or invoice questions, please call the TEFRA Premium Unit at 1-866-239-9938.



Application Status and Eligibility

- <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/divisions-shared-services/medical-services/healthcare-programs/tefra/tefra-important-phone-numbers/>
- [Access.arkansas.gov](https://access.arkansas.gov), log into your account and review your child's application status online.



Medical Claim Status

800-482-5431 or
800-482-8988

Medical Claim
Status for members
or providers can be
provided by AFMC.



Comments and Questions

- Comments and questions can be:
 - ✓ Submitted to hilton.taylor@dhs.Arkansas.gov
or
 - ✓ Mailed to Hilton Taylor, Jr., Arkansas
Department of Human Services, Division of
Medical Services, 700 Main Street, Little Rock,
AR 72203
or
 - ✓ Expressed during the public comment portion
of this meeting



Public Comment

We want to hear from you!



Contact Us

Hilton Taylor, Jr.

hilton.taylor@dhs.Arkansas.gov



**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES**

We Care. We Act. We Change Lives.

