

Pregnant Presumptive Eligibility Public Hearing
Zoom Public Hearing (04/23/25 @ 10:00 AM CST)

Mac Golden: Good morning and welcome to the public hearing on Rule 296 Pregnant Presumptive Eligibility. I will be announcing the notice of rulemaking and then I will open the floor for public comments. If you wish to make a public comment, please utilize the raise hand feature via Zoom, and you will be recognized to give your comment on the record. All official responses to public comments will appear on the DHS proposed rule website after the public comment period concludes. I'll now read the notice of rulemaking.

Notice of rulemaking. The Department of Human Services (DHS) announces for a public comment period of thirty (30) calendar days a notice of rulemaking for the following proposed rule under one or more of the following chapters, subchapters, or sections of the Arkansas Code: §§20-76-201, 20-77-107, and 25-10-129. The proposed effective date of the rule is July 1, 2025.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) seeks to add presumptive eligibility for pregnant women under Medicaid pursuant to Acts 124 and 140 of 2025. The goal of Presumptive Eligibility – Pregnant Women (PE-PW) is to offer immediate health care coverage to pregnant women likely to be eligible for Medicaid before there has been a full eligibility determination. The proposed rule estimates a financial impact of \$483,929.00 (\$139,662.00 State; \$344,267.00 Federal) for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 and \$1,607,144.00 (\$486,844 State; \$1,120,300.00 Federal) for SFY 2026.

To implement PE-PW, DHS revises the Medical Services Policy (MSP) Manual by creating Section B-280 that describes the PE-PW program, eligibility determination and length of coverage, and the process for applying for ongoing coverage. The MSP Glossary is updated to further define Qualified Entities (QE)”, which are designated agencies that determine presumptive eligibility. DHS updates the Medicaid Provider Manual Section I (124.140) and mirrors the language in the Certified Nurse Midwife manual, Nurse Practitioner manual, and Physician Manual. Medicaid will provide a temporary aid category for PE-PW, with coverage restricted to prenatal services and services for conditions that may complicate the pregnancy, in an outpatient setting only. A state plan amendment will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

The proposed rule is available for review at the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Policy and Rules, 2nd floor Donaghey Plaza South Building, 7th and Main Streets, P. O. Box 1437, Slot S295, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437. This notice also shall be posted at the local office of the Division of County Operations (DCO) of DHS in every county in the state. You may also access and download the proposed rule at ar.gov/dhs-proposed-rules.

Public comments can be submitted in writing at the above address or at the following email address: ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov. All public comments must be received by DHS no later than May 5th. Please note that public comments submitted in response to this notice are considered public documents. A public comment, including the commenter’s name and any personal information contained within the public comment, will be made publicly available and may be seen by various people.

A public hearing will be held by remote access through Zoom. Public comments may be submitted at the hearing.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact the Office of Policy and Rules at 501-320-6428.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and is operated, managed and delivers services without regard to religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, age, race, color, or national origin. Signed by Mary Franklin, Director of the Division of County Operations and Elizabeth Pitman, Director of the Division of Medical Services.

Please let the record reflect we have three attendees for today's public hearing. If any attendees would like to make a public comment at this time, please utilize the raise hand feature and you will be recognized to give your comment on the record. I will pause ten seconds.

It does not appear that any attendees wish to make a public comment today. We thank you for attending this hearing on the proposed rule.

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Mary Franklin, Director
Division of County Operations

Elizabeth Pitman, Director
Division of Medical Services