



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
EIS-Replacement Program Office

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MEMO

To: DHSS Division Leadership and Operational Management

From: ^{NF} Nick Faulkner, Division of Public Assistance EIS-Replacement Program Manager

The Division of Public Assistance is moving along steadily with development to replace our aging eligibility system as well as to manage an increasing number of applications for public services such as for Medicaid and SNAP. The new eligibility system is known as ARIES and the acronym stands for Alaska's Resource for Integrated Eligibility Services.

We would like to share some good news on DPA's continuing improvements toward serving Alaskans better. Alaska will transition to become a Determination state on November 1, 2015. This move will increase state efficiencies and expedite processing of MAGI Medicaid applications received from the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). This change affects how applications are received from Marketplace (<http://healthcare.gov>) into the Division of Public Assistance ARIES system

On November 1, 2015 (first day of federal open enrollment period):

- Alaska will move from an 'Assessment' state to a '**Determination**' State. This change means that MAGI Medicaid applications will be *pre-determined* by the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace *before* they are generated and sent over electronically to Alaska's ARIES system.
- As of 11/1/2015, there will be four types of FFM applications received in Alaska for MAGI Medicaid:
 1. Applications fully determined eligible
 2. Applications potentially eligible and pended because of missing or incomplete verification
 3. Applications that are undetermined because *all* individuals on the application are ineligible for Medicaid *and* applicants are requesting that Alaska determine eligibility, or their request is for non-MAGI Medicaid or emergency/alien Medicaid
 4. Applications partially eligible because the household applying has a combination of the above statuses

This change to a Determination state will help Alaska reduce our assistance application backlog and allow our clients to receive Medicaid benefits expeditiously. It also allows the public to apply within very same Marketplace website for a qualified health insurance plan or a premium tax credit if found not eligible for Medicaid. We encourage you to share this information out and to have potential clients apply for Alaska medical assistance via the federal Marketplace <http://healthcare.gov> on or after November 1, 2015.

Additionally, the ARIES self-service portal site has the pre-screening "**Am I Eligible?**" tool that allows members of the public to run a quick, preliminary check regarding potential eligibility for MAGI Medicaid. The ARIES pre-screener web page is found at <https://aries.alaska.gov>. The pre-screener tool does not require a login or user account set up. It consists of a short series of questions that can help applicants determine if they may be eligible to apply for medical assistance. On November 1, current clients can also view details about benefit information and electronic notices when they securely log into their ARIES self-service portal account.

Please contact me at nick.faulkner@alaska.gov with questions regarding Alaska's move to become a Determination state or the DPA EIS-Replacement Program Office development of ARIES. Thank you.