



*Administrator*  
Washington, DC 20201

**MAY - 7 2018**

Jon Hamdorf  
Acting Medicaid Director  
Kansas Department of  
Health and Environment  
900 SW Jackson Ave., Suite 900  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Mr. Hamdorf:

This letter is in regards to your request, submitted on December 20, 2017, to extend Kansas' Medicaid demonstration, entitled "KanCare" (Project Number 11-W-00283/7), under section 1115 of the Social Security Act (the Act). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to working with Kansas to achieve its goals for improving its Medicaid program. As you know, CMS is also committed to supporting state flexibility and innovation, as evidenced by our recent approvals of state demonstrations that advance community engagement. We believe that well-designed community engagement programs may create a crucial pathway to work and job training, and will test whether these requirements help individuals rise out of poverty and reduce their dependence on public assistance. With more than 6.1 million open jobs across the country, we believe that there is significant opportunity for individuals to be successful in meeting the requirements through workforce participation. We appreciate Kansas' efforts to take advantage of this flexibility as it continues to improve its Medicaid program and we look forward to working with you and your team to design a program that will work for Kansans.

As part of these efforts, community engagement programs should be designed to support a pathway out of poverty for individuals and promote overall health and well-being. Each state will have unique circumstances to consider, and we have asked your team to provide us with a plan to support your proposal that would describe an approach that works for Kansans. While we continue to review the state's proposal, we have determined that we will not approve this formulation of the state's request to impose a lifetime limit on Medicaid benefits for individuals who are eligible for Medicaid. We have approved, in other states, meaningful incentives for certain adults to participate in community engagement activities and to take greater responsibility for their health and well-being, including periods of ineligibility for failing to comply with these requirements. In every case, these incentive structures are designed to engage beneficiaries in ways that promote positive health and well-being.

My staff stands ready to assist the state in identifying a workable approach to meeting the state's goals, and Kansas may wish to review the demonstration approvals recently granted to Arkansas, Kentucky, and Indiana as examples. If you have any questions, please contact Judith Cash,

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Director, State Demonstrations Group, at 410-786-9686. CMS looks forward to continuing to assist you in this important work to improve care for low-income Kansans.

Sincerely,



Seema Verma