DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Privacy Act of 1974; Report of a New Routine Use for a CMS System of Records

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).


SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), CMS is adding a new routine use to the existing system of records titled Enrollment Data Base (EDB), System No. 09–70–0502, last modified 73 Federal Register 10249 (February 26, 2008), to assist with transmitting data to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for 10958 processing.

The new routine use will authorize CMS to disclose information maintained in the system “to the IRS for the purposes of reporting Medicare Part A enrollment information and to provide statements to the individual enrollees with respect to whom information is reported to the IRS. Disclosures made pursuant to the routine use will be coordinated through CMS’ Division of Medicare Enrollment Coordination, Medicare Enrollment and Appeals Group, Center for Medicare.

DATES: Effective Dates: The new routine use described in this notice will become effective without further notice 30 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register, unless comments are received that warrant revisions to this Notice. Written comments should be submitted within 30 days.

ADDRESSES: The public should address comments to: CMS Privacy Officer, Division of Security, Privacy Policy and Governance, Information Security and Privacy Group, Office of Enterprise Information, CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244–1870, Mailstop: N 1–24–08, Office: (410) 786–5357 or via email: walter.stone@cms.hhs.gov. Comments received will be available for review at this location, by appointment, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Eastern Time zone.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roland Herrera, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Medicare Enrollment Coordination, Medicare Enrollment and Appeals Group, CMS Center for Medicare, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C2–12–16, Baltimore, MD 21244, Office phone: 410.786.0668, Facsimile: 443.380.5418, Email: roland.herrera@cms.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CMS is required to produce reports and statements of enrollment in Medicare Part A to confirm enrollment in minimum essential coverage under Section 6055 of the Affordable Care Act. The enrollment information must be provided to the IRS for tax administration purposes to enable the IRS to properly assess tax returns filed to ensure that Medicare Part A Enrollees are not assessed a tax penalty for not being enrolled in health care coverage.

For the reason explained above, the following routine use is added to Enrollment Data Base (EDB), System No. 09–70–0502:

11. To the IRS for the purposes of reporting Medicare Part A enrollment information and to provide statements to the individual enrollees with respect to whom information is reported to the IRS.

Celeste Dade-Vinson, Health Insurance Specialist, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Community Living

Information Collection; New Funding Formula for the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (SCDDs) and Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As) Located in Each State and Territory

AGENCY: Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), Administration on Disabilities (AoD), Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of guidance.

SUMMARY: The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) within the Administration on Disabilities (AoD), located within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) at the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is soliciting comments from the public on the New Funding Formula for the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (SCDDs) and Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As) located in each State and Territory.
The DD Act provides authority and funding to the states and territories under the DD Act to support services for people with developmental disabilities. The updated formula is believed to be more clear, concise, transparent, and consistent with Congress’ intent to provide funds to states based on greatest need.

In addition to the formula, the DD Act prescribes minimum allotments for states with small populations and territories (Puerto Rico is not considered a territory under the DD Act). About half of the states receive a minimum allotment. The DD Act also requires adjusting (increasing) the minimum allotment amounts if certain criteria are met. After minimum allotments are met, the remaining appropriations are allocated using the formula.

Finally, the Act requires a hold-harmless for the State DD Councils that was passed as an amendment to the DD Act in 2003, P.L. 108–154. Through this hold-harmless clause, SCDD awards are based on the award amount from the previous year, FY 2000, FY 2001, or FY 2002, whichever is highest. If there are not enough funds available to fully fund all of the awards, the SCDDs then receive an equal percent reduction. It is important to note that a new formula may not immediately impact the SCDDs due to the hold harmless clause. The new formula would impact the SCDDs only when appropriations rise to such a level that all SCDDs would receive an increase in allotments above the previous fiscal year’s award level.

Methodology

AIDD convened a workgroup of researchers, retired SCDD and P&A directors, national associations, and AIDD staff in the spring of 2015 and held four meetings over a two month period. The workgroup reviewed the three elements required for the formula and discussed each, identifying potential data sources for each element in cooperation with the HHS Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation (ASPE). The workgroup discussed the strengths and challenges of the different data and based on these discussions provided recommendations to AIDD. In addition, the workgroup worked with the Grants Management Office at ACL to test the impact of different scenarios.

Revised Formula

Beginning in FY 2017, AIDD’s State DD Councils and P&A grants will use a new formula to distribute funds after meeting statutory minimums and hold-harmless requirements:

1. State/Territory Population (30%): Based on July Census figures released in August of each year.

   Outdated and severely undercount the population of individuals with developmental disabilities. The updated formula is believed to be more clear, concise, transparent, and consistent with Congress’ intent to provide funds to states based on greatest need.

2. Need for services (30%): Based on a 1.58 percent prevalence rate for developmental disabilities in each State and Territory from the HHS National Health Interview Survey on Disability (NHIS–D).

   In determining the need for services, the workgroup discussed using data sources such as Medicaid and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; concluding that these data are unreliable because each state determines program eligibility and reporting requirements differently. The prevalence rate for developmental disabilities of 1.58 percent was established by the Federal government in the early 1990s through the NHIS–D and is still the most current prevalence rate available that meets the definition of Developmental Disabilities per the DD Act.

3. Financial need (40%): Use a combination of poverty (20%) and unemployment rates (20%) from July of each calendar year.

   The workgroup thought it was best to use a combination of a State/Territory’s poverty and unemployment rates because it best reflects the economic status of a State/Territory and, thus, their financial need.

Request for Comments

This notice invites public comment on the new formula for the SCDD and P&A annual awards. We seek diverse perspectives including, but not limited to, that of grantees, technical assistance providers, and advocates, as well as federal agencies and for-profit and not-for-profit stakeholders. The comments will be important factors in finalizing the formula.

Privacy Act Notification Statement:

Responses to this guidance notice are voluntary. Respondents are advised that the Government is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted. No proprietary, classified, confidential, or sensitive information should be included in your response.


Aaron Bishop,

Commissioner, Administration on Disabilities.

[FR Doc. 2016–03276 Filed 2–17–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4154–01–P