

A RESOLUTION

25-487

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 2, 2024

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to approve proposed final rules submitted to the Council to update financial eligibility requirements and standards on eligibility determinations for the DC Healthcare Alliance program.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Health Care Alliance Financial Eligibility Rulemaking Approval Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) There is an immediate need to approve proposed final rules of the Department of Health Care Finance regarding the DC Health Care Alliance (“Alliance”) program.

(b) Pursuant to section 7a of the Health Care Privatization Amendment Act of 2001, effective March 30, 2004 (D.C. Law 15-109; D.C. Official Code § 7-1406) (“Act”), the Council must approve, by act, proposed final rules that implement the Act.

(c) The Department of Health Care Finance in March 2023 issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to update its rules governing Alliance program eligibility to create parity with certain Medicaid eligibility requirements and processes, including most of the Medicaid modified adjusted gross income (“MAGI”) financial methodology.

(d) The rule changes the financial eligibility methodology to further align with policy changes to the MAGI financial methodology by incorporating federal legislative changes, which will streamline the eligibility process.

(e) In response to the restart of Alliance program renewals on July 1, 2022, the rules also adopt upcoming Medicaid policy changes to increase the reasonable compatibility standard for verifying electronic data sources when an individual attests to their financial information, which will provide more room for errors that may be no fault of the applicants or beneficiaries, and create a more streamlined and efficient automation of application and renewal processing that reduces the risk of eligible Alliance beneficiaries from losing health coverage.

(f) Approval on an emergency basis is necessary to reduce barriers to District residents establishing and continuing Alliance program eligibility.

Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the District of Columbia Health Care Alliance

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

Financial Eligibility Rulemaking Approval Emergency Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.