

NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING

TITLE 9. HEALTH SERVICES

CHAPTER 22. ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM – ADMINISTRATION

PREAMBLE

1. Permission to proceed with this final rulemaking was granted under A.R.S. § 41-1039 by the governor on:

February 13, 2025

<u>2. Article, Part, or Section Affected (as applicable)</u>	<u>Rulemaking Action</u>
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R9-22-301	Amend
R9-22-302	Amend
R9-22-304	Amend
R9-22-305	Amend
R9-22-315	Amend

3. Citations to the agency's statutory rulemaking authority to include the authorizing statute (general) and the implementing statute (specific):

Authorizing statute: A.R.S. § 36-2903.01

Implementing statute: A.R.S. §§ 36-2904, 36-2933

4. The effective date of the rule:

This rule shall become effective 60 days after a certified original and preamble are filed in the Office of the Secretary of State pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1032(A). The effective date is (to be filled in by *Register* editor).

a. If the agency selected a date earlier than the 60-day effective date as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1032(A), include the earlier date and state the reason the agency selected the earlier effective date as provided in A.R.S. § 41-1032(A)(1) through (5):

Not applicable.

b. If the agency selected a date later than the 60-day effective date as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1032(A), include the later date and state the reason the agency selected the later effective date as provided in A.R.S. § 41-1032(B):

Not applicable.

5. Citations to all related notices published in the *Register* as specified in R1-1-409(A) that pertain to the current record of the final rule:

Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening: 30 A.A.R. 3465, Issue Date: November 15, 2024, Issue Number: 46, File number: R24-240

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: 30 A.A.R. 3355, Issue Date: November 15, 2024, Issue Number: 46, File number: R24-224

6. The agency's contact person who can answer questions about the rulemaking:

Name: Sladjana Kuzmanovic

Title: Sr. Rules Analyst

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7. An agency's justification and reason why a rule should be made, amended, repealed or renumbered, to include an explanation about the rulemaking:

Rules in R9-22-Article 3 outline general eligibility requirements for individuals seeking AHCCCS coverage. These rules establish the basic criteria for enrollment, including residency, financial need, and citizenship or legal status. Additionally, they specify documentation and verification needed to determine if an applicant qualifies for AHCCCS programs. Although effective, certain current rules do not align with some of the language in federal regulations or provide true clarity to individuals utilizing them in determining eligibility.

8. A reference to any study relevant to the rule that the agency reviewed and either relied on or did not rely on in its evaluation of or justification for the rule, where the public may obtain or review each study, all data underlying each study, and any analysis of each study and other supporting material:

Not applicable.

9. A showing of good cause why the rulemaking is necessary to promote a statewide interest if the rulemaking will diminish a previous grant of authority of a political subdivision of this state:

Not applicable.

10. A summary of the economic, small business, and consumer impact:

These regulations govern eligibility of members and AHCCCS and other State responsibilities to them. The Administration does not anticipate any economic, small business, and consumer impact with the currently proposed changes. Proposed changes are merely clarifying including updating definitions for "BHS" and "USCIS", extending the timeframe an applicant or member has to provide the required verification when requested, updating a rule to state that a written declaration is not required in order for the rule to be aligned with federal regulation, and adding information regarding electronic notification delivery option. Substantive and procedural rights of members are not affected, nor are any of the programs of the Administration.

11. A description of any changes between the proposed rulemaking, to include supplemental notices, and the final rulemaking:

There are no changes between the proposed rulemaking and the final rulemaking.

12. An agency's summary of the public or stakeholder comments made about the rulemaking and the agency response to the comments:

There were no public or stakeholder comments made about the rulemaking.

13. All agencies shall list other matters prescribed by statute applicable to the specific agency or to any specific rule or class of rules. Additionally, an agency subject to Council review under A.R.S. §§ 41-1052 and 41-1055 shall respond to the following questions:

There are no other matters prescribed by statute applicable specifically to the Administration or this specific rulemaking.

a. Whether the rule requires a permit, whether a general permit is used and if not, the reasons why a general permit is not used:

The rule does not require the issuance of a regulatory permit. Therefore, a general permit is not applicable.

b. Whether a federal law is applicable to the subject of the rule, whether the rule is more stringent than federal law and if so, citation to the statutory authority to exceed the requirements of federal law:

The rules are not more stringent than the federal law.

c. Whether a person submitted an analysis to the agency that compares the rule's impact of the competitiveness of business in this state to the impact on business in other states:

No business competitiveness analysis was submitted to the Administration.

14. A list of any incorporated by reference material as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1028 and its location in the rules:

Not applicable.

15. Whether the rule was previously made, amended or repealed as an emergency rule. If so, cite the notice published in the *Register* as specified in R1-1-409(A). Also, the agency shall state where the text was changed between the emergency and the final rulemaking packages:

Not applicable.

16. The full text of the rules follows:

TITLE 9. HEALTH SERVICES
CHAPTER 22. ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM – ADMINISTRATION
ARTICLE 3. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Section

R9-22-301.	General Eligibility Definitions
R9-22-302.	AHCCCS Eligibility Application
R9-22-304.	Verification of Eligibility Information
R9-22-305.	Eligibility Requirements
R9-22-315.	Notice of Adverse Action

ARTICLE 3. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

R9-22-301. General Eligibility Definitions

Definitions. In addition to definitions contained in R9-22-101 and A.R.S. § 36-2901, the words and phrases in this Article, Article 14 and Article 15 have the following meanings unless the context explicitly requires another meaning:

“Applicant,” notwithstanding R9-22-101, means a person listed on an application for whom AHCCCS coverage is being sought.

“BHS” means ~~the division of Behavioral Health Services within the Arizona Department of Health Services.~~

“CRS” means the program administered by the Administration or its designee that provides covered medical services and covered support services in accordance with A.R.S. 36-261.

“DCSS” means the Division of Child Support Services, which is the division within the Department that administers the Title IV-D program and includes a contract agent operating a child support enforcement program on behalf of the Department.

“FAA” means the Family Assistance Administration, the administration within the Department’s Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility with responsibility for providing cash and food stamp assistance to a member and for determining eligibility for AHCCCS medical coverage.

“Income” means combined earned and unearned income.

“Medical support” means to provide health care coverage in the form of health insurance or court-ordered payment for medical care.

“Member” means an applicant who has been determined to qualify for AHCCCS coverage by the Administration or its designee.

“Pre-enrollment process” means the process that provides an applicant the opportunity to choose an AHCCCS health plan before the determination of eligibility is completed.

“Resources” means real and personal property, including liquid assets.

“Sponsor” means an individual who signs the USCIS I-864 Affidavit of Support agreeing to support a non-citizen as a condition of the non-citizen’s admission for permanent residence in the United States.

“Sponsor deemed income” means the unearned income deemed available to the applicant named on the USCIS I-864 Affidavit of Support.

“SVES” means the State Verification and Exchange System, a system through which the Department exchanges income and benefit information with the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, and State Wage and Unemployment Insurance Benefit data files.

“USCIS” means the United States ~~Citizen~~ Citizenship and Immigration Services.

R9-22-302. AHCCCS Eligibility Application

Application process.

1. Right to apply. A person may apply for AHCCCS medical coverage by submitting an Administration-approved application to the Administration or its designee, an FAA office, or one of the following outstation locations:
 - a. ~~A BHS site;~~
 - ~~b.~~—A Federally Qualified Health Center or disproportionate share hospital under 42 U.S.C. 1396r-4; or
 - ~~c.~~ Any other site, including a hospital, approved by the Administration or its designee.
2. Application. To initiate the application process, the Administration or its designee will accept an application from the applicant, an adult who is in the applicant’s household, as defined in 42 CFR 435.603(f), or family, as defined in section 36B(d)(1) of the

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code, an authorized representative, or if the applicant is a minor or incapacitated, someone acting responsibly for the applicant by submitting a written or online application under 42 CFR 435.907.

- a. A phone or written application must contain at least the following to be submitted to the Administration or its designee:
 - i. Applicant's legible name,
 - ii. Address or location where the applicant can be reached,
 - iii. Signature of the person submitting the application,
 - iv. Date the application was signed.
 - v. The Administration or its designee shall require that a third party witness the signing and attest by signing the application if the individual signing the application signs with a mark.
- b. An online application must be completed in full in order to be submitted to the Administration or its designee.
3. Incomplete application. If the application is incomplete, the Administration or its designee shall do at least one of the following:
 - a. Contact an applicant or an applicant's representative by telephone or electronic medium to obtain the missing information required for an eligibility determination;
 - b. Mail a request for additional information to an applicant or an applicant's representative, allowing 10 days from the date of the request to provide the required additional information; or
 - c. Meet with the applicant, representative, or household member.
4. Date of application. The date of application is the date application is received by the Administration or its designee either on-line or at a location listed in subsection (1).
5. Complete application form. The Administration or its designee shall consider an application complete when all questions are answered. The same person as listed under subsection (2) is the person that must sign the completed application. The application shall be witnessed and signed by a third party if the individual signing the application signs with a mark.
6. Assistance with application. The Administration or its designee shall allow a person of the applicant's choice to accompany, assist, and represent the applicant in the application process.

R9-22-304. Verification of Eligibility Information

- A. Except as provided in subsection (E), if information provided by or on behalf of an applicant or member on an application, renewal form or otherwise does not conflict with information obtained by the agency through an electronic data match, the Administration or its designee shall determine or renew eligibility based on such information.
- B. The Administration or its designee shall not require an applicant, member, or representative to provide additional verification unless the verification cannot be obtained electronically or the verification obtained electronically conflicts with information provided by or on behalf of the applicant or member.
- C. If information provided by or on behalf of an applicant or member does conflict with information obtained through an electronic data match, the applicant or member shall provide the Administration or its designee with information or documentation necessary to verify eligibility, including evidence originating from an agency, organization, or an individual with actual knowledge of the information.
- D. Income information obtained through an electronic data match shall be considered reasonably compatible with income information provided by or on behalf of an individual if both meet or both exceed the applicable income limit.
- E. The Administration or its designee shall not accept the applicant's or member's statement by itself as verification of:
 1. SSN;

2. Qualified alien status, except as described under 42 USC 1320b-7(d)(4)(A); or
 3. Citizenship, except as described under 42 USC 1396a(ee)(1).
- F. The Administration or its designee shall give an applicant or member at least ~~105~~ days from the date of a written or electronic request for information to provide required verification. The Administration or its designee may deny the application or discontinue eligibility if an applicant or a member does not provide the required information timely.

R9-22-305. Eligibility Requirements

As a condition of eligibility, the Administration or its designee must require applicants, and members to do the following:

1. ~~Take all necessary steps to obtain any annuities, pensions, retirement, disability benefits to which they are entitled, unless they can show good cause for not doing so.~~
2. —Furnish a SSN under 42 CFR 435.910 and 435.920, or in the absence of an SSN, provide proof of a submitted application of SSN. The Administration or its designee will assist in obtaining or verifying the applicant's SSN under 42 CFR 435.910 if an applicant cannot recall the applicant's SSN or has not been issued a SSN. An applicant is not required to furnish an SSN if the applicant is not able to legally obtain a SSN. The Administration or its designee shall determine eligibility notwithstanding the applicant's lack of a SSN, if the applicant is cooperating with the Administration or its designee to obtain a SSN and obtain a SSN prior to the next scheduled review of eligibility.
32. Provide proof of residency of Arizona. An applicant or a member is not eligible unless the applicant or member is a resident of Arizona under 42 CFR 435.403 effective October 1, 2012, which is incorporated by reference and on file with the Administration, and available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Mail Stop: IDCC, 732 N. Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20401. This incorporation by reference contains no future editions or amendments.
43. A ~~written~~ declaration, ~~signed under penalty of perjury~~, must be provided for each person for whom benefits are being sought stating whether the individual is a citizen or national of the United States, and, if that individual is not a citizen or national of the United States, that the individual is a qualified alien. The declaration must be provided by the individual for whom eligibility is being sought or an adult member of the individual's family or household.
54. Each applicant who claims qualified alien status must provide either:
 - a. Alien registration documentation or other proof of immigration registration from the Immigration and Naturalization Service that contains the individual's alien admission number or alien file number (or numbers if the individual has more than one number), or
 - b. Other documents that the Administration or its designee accepts as evidence of immigration status, such as:
 - i. A Form I-94 Departure Record issued by the USCIS,
 - ii. A Foreign Passport,
 - iii. A USCIS Parole Notice,
 - iv. A Victim of Trafficking Certification or Eligibility Letter issued by the US DHHS Office of Refugee Resettlement,
 - v. Other documentation consistent with 42 CFR 435.406 or 435.407.
 - c. Sufficient information for the Administration or its designee to obtain electronic verification of immigration status from the USCIS.

65. If a person for whom eligibility is being sought, states that they are an alien, that person is not required to comply with subsections (4) and (5); however, if they do not comply with those sections, and if they meet all other eligibility criteria, benefits will be limited to those necessary to treat an emergency medical condition.

R9-22-315. Notice of Adverse Action

- A.** Adverse actions. An applicant or member may appeal, as described under Chapter 34, by requesting a hearing from the Administration or its designee concerning any of the following adverse actions:
1. Complete or partial denial of eligibility under R9-22-307 and R9-22-313(E);
 2. Suspension, termination, or reduction of AHCCCS medical coverage under R9-22-307, R9-22-312 and R9-22-314;
 3. Delay in the eligibility determination beyond the timeframes under this Article;
 4. The imposition of or increase in a premium or copayment; or
 5. The effective date of eligibility.
- B.** Notice of Adverse Action. The Administration or its designee shall personally deliver or send, by mail, or electronic means a Notice of Adverse Action to the person affected by the action. For the purpose of this Section, the date of the Notice of Adverse Action shall be the date of personal delivery to the applicant, ~~or the postmark date, if mailed,~~ or the email date if emailed.
- C.** Automatic change and hearing rights.
1. An applicant or a member is not entitled to a hearing if the sole issue is a federal or state law requiring an automatic change adversely affecting some or all recipients.
 2. An applicant or a member is entitled to a hearing if a federal or state law requires an automatic change and the applicant or member timely files an appeal that alleges a misapplication of the facts to the law.