

Low Income Families With Children (LIFC)

H-200

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Table of Contents

H-200	LOW INCOME FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN (LIFC)	1
H-200.1	General Information	1
H-200.2	Coverage	1
H-210	LIFC ASSISTANCE UNIT	2
H-210.1	Who Shall Be Included.....	2
H-210.2	Who May Be Included	3
H-210.3	Separate Assistance Units	4
H-221	ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS	11
H-221.1	Determine Assistance Unit.....	11
H-221.2	Establish Categorical Requirements	11
H-221.3	Establish Non-Financial Eligibility	11
H-221.4	Establish Need.....	12
H-221.5	Eligibility Decision	12
H-221.6	Certification Period.....	12
H-221.7	Notice of Decision	12
H-230	LIFC MINOR UNMARRIED PARENT	13
H-230.1	General Information	13
H-231	ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS	13
H-231.1	Determine Assistance Unit.....	13
H-231.2	Establish Categorical Requirements	14
H-231.3	Establish Non-Financial Eligibility	14
H-231.4	Establish Need.....	14
H-231.5	Eligibility Decision	15
H-231.6	Certification Period.....	15
H-231.7	Notice of Decision	15
H-240	PAP	15
H-240.1	General Information	15
H-240.2	Coverage	16
H-240.3	PAP Assistance Unit	16
H-241	ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS	17
H-241.1	Determine Assistance Unit.....	17
H-241.2	Establish Categorical Requirements	17
H-241.3	Establish Non-Financial Eligibility	17

Table of Contents

H-241.4	Establish Need	18
H-241.5	Eligibility Decision	19
H-241.6	Certification Period.....	19
H-241.7	Notice of Decision	19

H-200 LOW INCOME FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN (LIFC)

H-200.1 General Information

**

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) eliminated the AFDC cash assistance program and replaced it with a block grant program for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). This law eliminated automatic Medicaid eligibility for persons eligible for TANF cash assistance and established a new mandatory Medicaid eligibility group for Low Income Families with Children (LIFC) **.

**Beginning October 1, 1996 **, Louisiana must provide Medicaid coverage to individuals under the Low Income Families with Children program if:

- the family includes a dependent child who is living with a caretaker relative,
- family income does not exceed the 185 percent gross income limit test, and
- the family's countable income does not exceed the applicable AFDC income standard in effect on July 16, 1996.

AFDC policy in effect on July 16, 1996 is used to determine eligibility for the LIFC program.

**

Note:

LIFC is an entry level program. Medically Needy eligibility cannot be determined prior to eligibility for LIFC.

H-200.2 Coverage

Recipients of LIFC are eligible for the full range of Medicaid covered services.

H-210 LIFC ASSISTANCE UNIT

The LIFC assistance unit consists of those persons who can be included in the certification. Each member of the assistance unit must meet all eligibility requirements.

H-210.1 Who Shall Be Included

The following persons who live in the home SHALL be included:

- the dependent child,
- the child's siblings (includes half siblings), and
- the child's parents.

Unless:

1. The child does not meet age ** requirements.
2. The child is provided either federal or state foster care payments.
3. The child is receiving adoption assistance. If excluding the child would make the unit ineligible, do not exclude.
4. The person is an SSI recipient.
5. The person does not meet the citizenship requirement.
6. The parental relationship has been terminated through adoption.
7. The parent is a convicted offender.

Note:

For Medicaid purposes, a convicted offender is an individual whose inmate status has not been terminated by pardon, probation or parole, end of sentence, or unconditional release from the penal system. If the individual's inmate situation has been terminated for one of these reasons, the individual can be included, if otherwise eligible.

8. The parent has been sanctioned because he/she:
 - refuses to assign rights to medical support and other third party payments or fails to cooperate in pursuing third party benefits,

- does not meet the requirements of the Child Support Program,
 - **
 - does not meet the enumeration requirement,
9. The MUM's parent chooses not to be included.

**

H-210.2 Who May Be Included

The following persons who live in the home MAY be included unless they are sanctioned or their inclusion causes the child to be ineligible:

- A qualified relative other than the parent if the parent does not live in the home,
- A stepparent of a child or spouse of a qualified relative when they meet the criteria of an essential person,
- A step-sibling, if eligible for C-related assistance,
- The Caretaker Relative in LIFC when all children in the home receive SSI and this qualified relative and the children would be eligible for LIFC if the children were not SSI recipients.
- Essential persons, related or unrelated, including a stepparent or spouse of a qualified relative, if requested by a recipient. An essential person is:
 - A person who provides child care which enables the qualified relative to work full-time outside the home or to receive full-time training or to attend high school or GED classes full-time.
 - A person who provides full-time care for an incapacitated family member living in the home.
 - A child not within the required degree of relationship to the caretaker if that child meets all other LIFC requirements.

Note:

Include essential persons in a certification with other enrollees **. **Do not** provide assistance to essential persons alone; they must be included in an eligible C-related assistance unit.

- The biological parent whose legal relationship to the child has been terminated through adoption (the biological parent is considered a qualified relative rather than a parent).

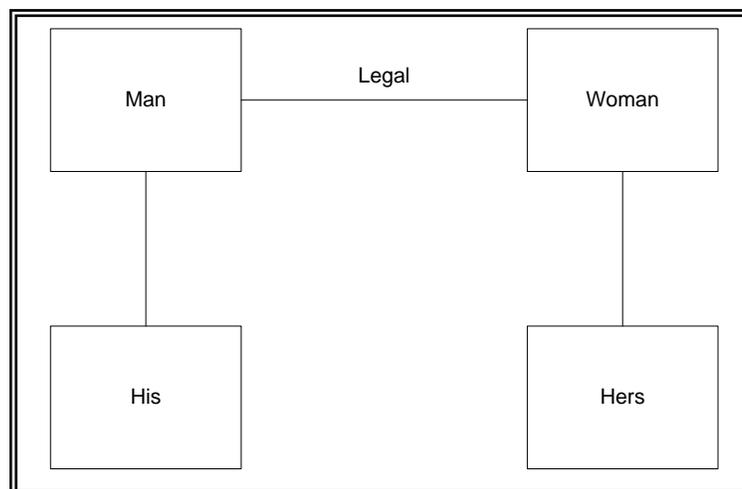
H-210.3 Separate Assistance Units

When two or more family groups live together, each shall be considered as a separate assistance unit.

Siblings and their parents are a family group. Children who are not siblings are separate family groups. If both groups are eligible a legal marriage draws eligible step-siblings into one certification. A person may be "payee" (qualified relative) for more than one family group, but may be included in only one assistance unit.

Example #1:

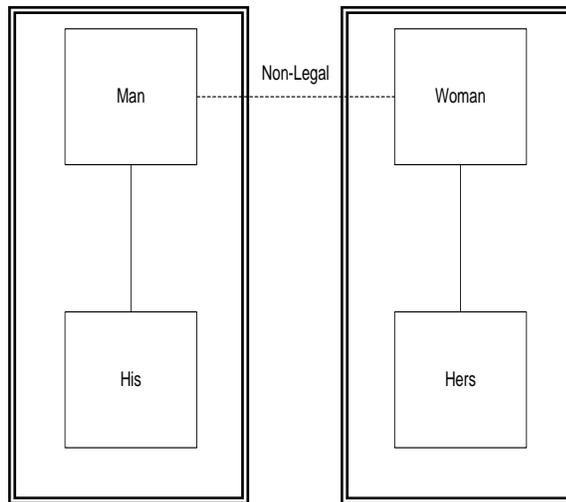
A man and woman are legally married, each with a child from a prior union but no children of their union. Consider eligibility for each family group separately. If both groups are eligible include in one assistance unit. If one group is ineligible refer to [H-240.3](#), PAP Assistance Unit.



ONE ASSISTANCE UNIT - LIFC

Example #2:

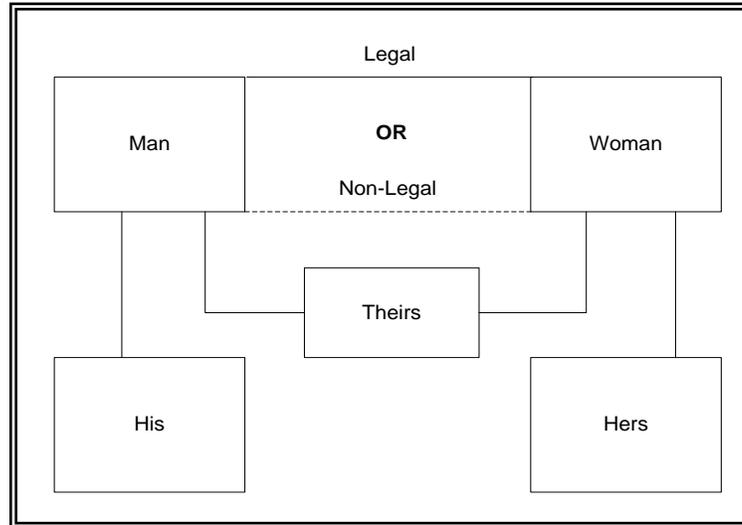
A man and woman live in non-legal union and each has a child from a prior union, but no children together. The woman and her child are one family group; the man and his child are a separate family group. Consider eligibility for **each group separately** and if eligible certify each group separately.



TWO ASSISTANCE UNITS - LIFC

Example #3

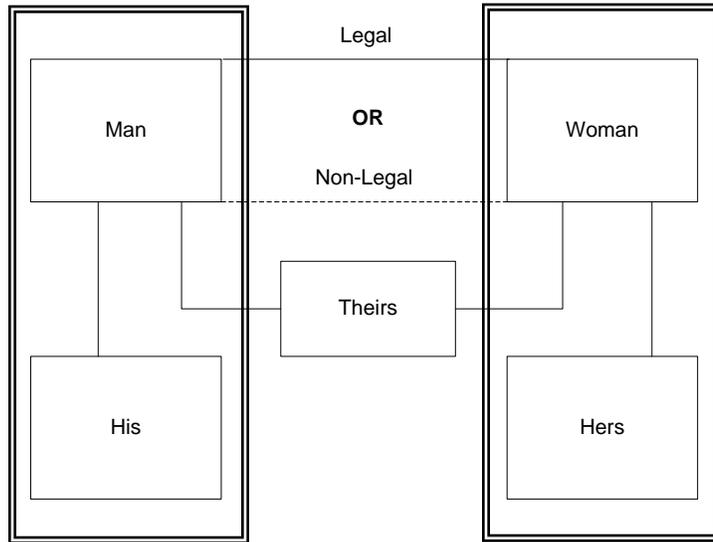
A man and woman live together and each has a child from a prior union. The man and woman also have a child of their union **. This child is a sibling to the children in both groups and brings the two groups into one assistance unit. This applies whether or not the man and woman are legally married. When they are income ineligible as a single assistance unit, refer to Example #4.



ONE ASSISTANCE UNIT - LIFC

Example #4:

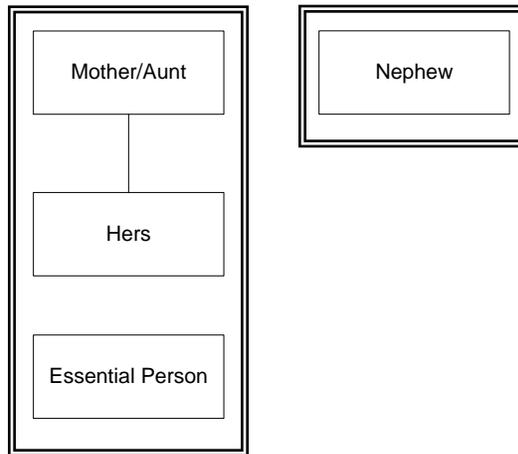
** When the single Assistance Unit is ineligible based on income, consider eligibility as ** two assistance units and, if eligible, certify each group separately.



TWO ASSISTANCE UNITS - ** LIFC

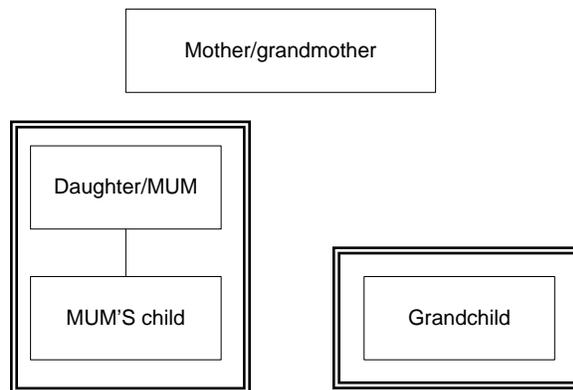
Example #5:

A mother, her child, a nephew and an unrelated person (who provides child care so the mother can attend GED classes full time) live together. The mother, her child and the essential person make up one assistance unit. The nephew is a separate assistance unit with his aunt as payee only.

**TWO ASSISTANCE UNITS - LIFC**

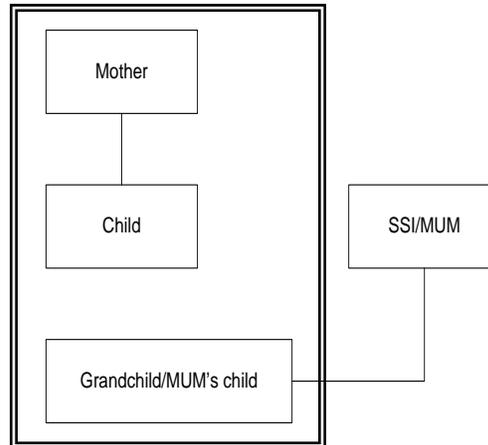
Example #6:

A mother, her minor daughter, the daughter's child and another grandchild (whose parents do not live in the home) live together. The daughter (MUM) and daughter's child must be in one assistance unit. The other grandchild must be in a separate unit with his grandmother as payee only since this child is not a sibling or a child of anyone in the other assistance unit. The mother/grandmother may be included in only one of the two assistance units and shall be payee only of the other assistance unit.

**TWO ASSISTANCE UNITS - LIFC**

Example #7:

A mother, her two minor children and a grandchild live together. One of her two children is the mother of the grandchild and is an SSI recipient. (The MUM is not included in the assistance unit **only** because she receives SSI.) Her child is included because he is the child of a MUM who would be included in the assistance unit if she were not receiving SSI. The mother, the MUM's sibling and the MUM's child are in one assistance unit.

**ONE ASSISTANCE UNIT – LIFC**

H-221 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

Determine eligibility by applying the following criteria. The elements have been listed in the most logical order, but work on all steps simultaneously.

H-221.1 Determine Assistance Unit

Include all individuals who are LIFC eligible.

H-221.2 Establish Categorical Requirements

Establish categorical requirements in the LIFC program.

H-221.3 Establish Non-Financial Eligibility

Establish non-financial eligibility requirements in the LIFC program. Verify eligibility for each member of the assistance unit with regard to the following factors:

- Age I-100
- Assignment of Third Party Rights I-200
- Citizenship/Alien Status I-300
- **
- Enumeration I-600
- Home I-800
- Relationship I-1800
- Residence I-1900
- SES Referral I-2000

H-221.4 Establish Need**A. Determine Composition of the Income Unit**

The income unit is composed of individuals as established under AFDC requirements as of 7/16/96. Never include anyone who would not have been included in the 7/16/96 AFDC income unit. Refer to [I-1521](#) Need - C-Related Income Unit.

Include sanctioned individuals in the income unit and their needs in the income standard.

B. Determine Need/Countable Income

**** Refer to the BHSF Form 3-C, ** 3-C form instructions, and ****** to [I-1520](#), Need - C-Related Income.**

If the applicant/recipient meets income eligibility requirements using 7/16/96 AFDC criteria, eligibility in regard to income is established for LIFC.

If the applicant/recipient is income ineligible, consider eligibility in PAP or CHAMP. If income ineligible for PAP or CHAMP, determine eligibility for C-MNP.

H-221.5 Eligibility Decision

Evaluate all eligibility requirements and verification received to make the eligibility decision to either reject, close, certify, or continue eligibility.

H-221.6 Certification Period

The certification period shall not exceed 12 months, excluding any retroactive coverage (up to three months).

Retroactive Medicaid eligibility shall be explored for the three months prior to the month of application. Refer to [H-1800](#), Retroactive Medicaid Eligibility.

H-221.7 Notice of Decision

Send the appropriate notice to the applicant/recipient.

H-230 LIFC MINOR UNMARRIED PARENT**H-230.1 General Information**

Medicaid coverage for a Minor Unmarried Parent can be provided in the LIFC category. A Minor Unmarried Parent is a person who is under 18 years of age and who:

- has one or more children, or
- is pregnant.

H-231 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

Determine eligibility by applying the following criteria. The elements have been listed in the most logical order, but work on all steps simultaneously.

H-231.1 Determine Assistance Unit

The minor unmarried parent who lives with a dependent child must be included in the LIFC assistance unit along with the dependent child. Refer to H-210.1 for exceptions.

The parents or qualified relative of the minor parent may be included if:

- otherwise eligible, and
- the minor parent is eligible. **

If the parent is included, the eligible siblings of the minor parent must also be included.

Who Must Be Payee

If the minor unmarried parent lives in the home of a parent or other adult qualified relative, the parent or relative must be payee for the minor unmarried parent and child.

If the minor unmarried parent does not live in the home of a parent or other adult qualified relative, the minor may be payee for herself/himself and child.

H-231.2 Establish Categorical Requirements

Establish categorical requirements using 7/16/96 AFDC criteria.

H-231.3 Establish Non-Financial Eligibility

Establish non-financial eligibility requirements using 7/16/96 AFDC criteria. Refer to H-221.3, LIFC for all factors with the exception of those listed below.

**

SES Referral

If either or both of the parents of the minor unmarried parent are absent from the home, referral must be made on those absent parents.

** Also, ** refer the absent parent of the minor unmarried parent's child. **

Both the minor unmarried parent and the payee are required to cooperate with SES. Refer to [I-2000](#), Support Enforcement Services.

H-231.4 Establish Need**A. Determine Composition of the Income Unit**

The income unit is the same as LIFC. Refer to H-221.4, Establish Need.

B. Determine Need/Countable Income

Count the minor unmarried parent's non-excluded income. If the minor unmarried parent is sanctioned, do not allocate for his/her needs.

If the minor unmarried parent lives with her/his parents who are not included in the assistance unit, budget a portion of the income of the parents. Refer to [I-1528](#), Allocation of Income in LIFC.

The income of a stepparent is not budgeted in a minor unmarried parent case.

H-231.5 Eligibility Decision

Evaluate all eligibility requirements and verification received to make the eligibility decision to either reject, close, certify, or continue eligibility.

H-231.6 Certification Period

The certification period shall not exceed 12 months, excluding any retroactive coverage (up to three months).

Retroactive Medicaid eligibility shall be explored for the three months prior to the month of application. Refer to [H-1800](#), Retroactive Medicaid.

H-231.7 Notice of Decision

Send appropriate notice to the applicant/recipient.

**

H-240 PAP**H-240.1 General Information**

PAP is a procedure used to provide Medicaid to children and/or their parents/qualified relatives denied LIFC because of an AFDC-related provision which is prohibited in Medicaid. Refer to [H-240.3](#) to determine if a parent is eligible to be included. A separate application form is not required. Refer to [H-110.4](#), Roll-down Flowchart for C-Related Rejections, Closures, or Removal of Ineligible Recipients.

Medicaid regulations specifically prohibit budgeting income of a stepparent, grandparent, sibling, alien sponsor, or any other person not legally responsible for a child in determining that child's Medicaid eligibility. Medicaid regulations also prohibit deeming income from a child to his/her parent(s)**.

Exclude the following persons and their income from the income unit when their income causes ineligibility for LIFC:

- a child with income which ** causes ineligibility for parents and/or siblings,

- a stepparent in determining a stepchild's eligibility,
- the sibling(s) of dependent child(ren) in determining the dependent child(ren)'s eligibility,
- a MUM's parent in determining the grandchild's eligibility, or
- an alien sponsor in determining the eligibility of the child of any sponsored alien.

After excluding the income/needs of a stepparent, sibling, MUM's parent, and/or alien sponsor, the otherwise eligible dependent child, and/or parent if eligible, are certified for PAP.

Persons determined ineligible for PAP because of income shall be considered for C-related Medicaid, including C-MNP.

H-240.2 Coverage

Recipients of PAP are eligible for the full range of Medicaid covered services.

H-240.3 PAP Assistance Unit

Include all dependent children and their parents who would be LIFC eligible except for the persons whose income ** is restricted by Medicaid provisions. A dependent child does not have to be certified for a caretaker relative to be eligible, refer to [H-100.3](#).

Examples of PAP exclusions from LIFC:

Example #1 (stepparent):

A woman, her child from a previous union, and her legal spouse live together. The stepfather's income after all appropriate deductions exceeds the flat grant for three persons. Refer to [Z-1700](#), Charts and [I-1411.4](#), Stepparent. The child must be considered for PAP. If the stepfather's income is insufficient to meet his wife's needs, she may be included in the PAP certification with her child. If not, determine C-MNP Caretaker Relative eligibility for her. Refer to [H-1012](#).

Example #2 (sibling):

A woman and her three children apply for LIFC. The youngest child has income which in combination with the other income in the unit exceeds the flat grant for four. The youngest child must be excluded from the assistance/income unit for the other children to be certified in PAP with their mother. Consider the excluded child for CHAMP or C-MNP.

Example #3:

Mrs. and her child X, live together. The only income is \$250 Social Security for X. They are ineligible for LIFC. X can be excluded to consider Mrs. as a Caretaker Relative in PAP, **. Consider X for CHAMP and C-MNP.

If PAP budgeting exclusions do not apply and the assistance unit is ineligible for LIFC, CHAMP, or Regular C-MNP, the case then rolls to LaCHIP. Refer to [H-1021.4](#), C-MNP Income Unit.

H-241 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

Determine eligibility by applying the following criteria. The elements have been listed in the most logical order, but work on all steps simultaneously.

H-241.1 Determine Assistance Unit

Include all dependent children and/or their parents/qualified relatives who would be LIFC eligible except for the income/** of a stepparent, child/sibling, grandparent, or alien sponsor. Never include anyone who was not in the LIFC assistance unit.

H-241.2 Establish Categorical Requirements

Establish categorical requirements in the LIFC program.

H-241.3 Establish Non-Financial Eligibility

Establish non-financial eligibility requirements in the LIFC program. Verify eligibility for each member of the assistance unit (after exclusion

of the stepparent, child/sibling, grandparent, or alien sponsor) with regard to the following factors:

- Age I-100
- Assignment of Third Party Rights I-200
- Citizenship/Alien Status I-300
- Deprivation I-500
- Enumeration I-600
- Home I-800
- Relationship (Qualified Relative) I-1800
- Residence I-1900
- SES Referral I-2000

H-241.4 Establish Need

A. Determine Composition of the Income Unit

The income/** unit is the same that is used in LIFC assistance excluding stepparent, child/sibling with income, grandparent, and/or alien sponsor. Never include anyone who was not included in the original LIFC income/** unit. Refer to H-210.

B. Determine Need/Countable Income

To determine the child's/parent's eligibility, ** refer to the **BHSF Form 3-C,** ** and 3-C form instructions except omit all income of excluded persons. Refer to [I-1520](#), Need - C-Related Income.

If the child is eligible, complete a budget to determine eligibility of the natural parent in the home. Subtract appropriate deductions and compare the stepparent's countable income to the 100% AFDC need standard for the stepparent and his/her legal dependents. Subtract appropriate deductions and compare the countable income of the MUM's parent or alien sponsor and legal spouse to the 100% AFDC need standard for these individuals and their legal dependents.

If the income is sufficient to meet the needs of the natural parent(s), the natural parent is ineligible to be included in the PAP certification.

If the income is insufficient to meet the needs of the natural parent who has no income, include the natural parent in the PAP certification.

If the income is insufficient to meet the needs of the natural parent who has income, allocate a portion of the income to the natural parent's legal dependents who:

- live in the home, and
- are not included in the PAP assistance unit. Refer to [I-1528](#), Allocation of Income in LIFC.

If the applicant/enrollee meets the income eligibility requirements for LIFC after mandatory exclusions, eligibility in regard to income is established for PAP.

If the applicant/enrollee is income ineligible, consider in CHAMP or C-MNP.

H-241.5 Eligibility Decision

Evaluate all eligibility requirements and verification received to make the decision to reject, close, certify, or continue eligibility.

H-241.6 Certification Period

The certification period shall not exceed twelve months, excluding any retroactive coverage (up to three months).

Retroactive Medicaid eligibility shall be explored for the three months prior to the month of application. Refer to [H-1800](#), Retroactive Medicaid.

H-241.7 Notice of Decision

Send appropriate notice to the applicant/enrollee.