NHeLP Hails Important Victory For Vulnerable Populations: HHS Won’t Allow Partial Medicaid Expansions

WASHINGTON—The National Health Law Program applauds HHS’ announcement today that it will not allow partial Medicaid Expansions in the years before 2017. NHeLP agrees that HHS could not legally allow states to implement partial Expansions. On November 30, 2012, NHeLP and nine co-signors sent HHS a detailed legal memorandum discussing the requirements in Medicaid law and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for states to cover all individuals under 138% of the poverty line if they implement an Expansion. NHeLP also supports HHS’ conclusion that states attempting to implement a partial Expansion through demonstration authority would not be eligible for the ACA’s enhanced matching rate.

"Requiring full Medicaid Expansions is the right policy for vulnerable individuals: full Expansion will lead to better, more affordable health coverage for the lowest income populations," said NHeLP executive director Emily Spitzer. "Requiring full Expansions will also help avoid serious complications in ACA implementation across the country."

For more information on Medicaid Expansions, please visit www.healthlaw.org.

The National Health Law Program protects and advances the health rights of low income and underserved individuals. The oldest non-profit of its kind, NHeLP advocates, educates and litigates at the federal and state levels.

www.healthlaw.org

NHeLP is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax-deductible. We rely on generous donors like you!

National Health Law Program
1444 I Street NW, Suite 1105
Washington, DC 20005