

1. For employer sponsored health benefit plans to each employer that has employees with dependents who may qualify for the program under subsection (d) of this section; or

2. For individual health benefit plans to each individual who may qualify for the program under subsection (d) of this section.

(5) A carrier that participates in the Children and Families Health Care Program shall submit a certification of eligibility for the eligible individual on the form required by the Secretary.

(6) In consultation with the Commissioner, the Secretary shall:

(i) Approve premium payments at a level that is adjusted to the benefits provided; and

(ii) Upon notice of enrollment of an eligible individual into a qualified employer sponsored health benefit plan or individual health benefit plan, make premium payments for the eligible individual's portion of the benefit cost directly to the carrier.]

~~[(g)]~~ (E) (1) In this subsection, "family contribution" means the portion of the premium cost paid by an eligible individual to enroll and participate in the Children and Families Health Care Program.

(2) On or before July 1, ~~1999~~ 2000 and in addition to any other requirements of this subtitle, as a requirement to enroll and maintain participation in the Children and Families Health Care Program, an individual's parent or guardian shall agree to pay an annual family contribution amount determined by the Department in accordance with paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(3) (i) For eligible individuals whose family income is at or above 185 percent of the federal poverty level, the Department shall develop an annual family contribution amount payment system such that the cost of the family contribution is at least 1 percent of the annual family income but does not exceed 2 percent of the annual family income.

(ii) The Department shall determine by regulation the schedules and the method of collection for the family contribution amount under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.‡

(III) BEFORE COLLECTING A FAMILY CONTRIBUTION FROM ANY INDIVIDUAL, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE INDIVIDUAL WITH NOTICE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FAMILY CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT AND THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE INDIVIDUAL TO MAKE PREMIUM PAYMENTS.

15-305.

[(a)] The purpose of the Health Care Foundation under this section is to:

(1) Develop programs to expand the availability of health insurance coverage to low-income, uninsured children [in accordance with subsection (b) of this section];