

(1) EVALUATING EMPLOYER-SPONSORED HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS TO DETERMINE WHETHER SPECIFIC PLANS MEET APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS;

(2) ASSISTING EMPLOYERS THAT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MCHP PRIVATE OPTION PLAN TO MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION;

(3) COLLECTING THE FAMILY CONTRIBUTION UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION;

(4) FORWARDING THE FAMILY CONTRIBUTION AND THE STATE'S PORTION OF THE PREMIUM DIRECTLY TO THE CARRIER; AND

(5) ASSISTING EMPLOYERS IN ENROLLING THE ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS OF EMPLOYEES IN THE EMPLOYER-SPONSORED HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.

(E) (1) AS A REQUIREMENT OF ENROLLMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE MCHP PRIVATE OPTION PLAN, THROUGH EITHER AN EMPLOYER-SPONSORED HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN OR A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION, THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL SHALL AGREE TO PAY THE FOLLOWING ANNUAL FAMILY CONTRIBUTION:

(I) FOR AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE FAMILY INCOME IS ABOVE 200 PERCENT, BUT AT OR BELOW 250 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES, AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO 2 PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL INCOME OF A FAMILY OF TWO AT 200 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES; AND

(II) FOR AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE FAMILY INCOME IS ABOVE 250 PERCENT, BUT AT OR BELOW 300 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES, AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO 2 PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL INCOME OF A FAMILY OF TWO AT 250 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES.

(2) THE FAMILY CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION APPLY ON A PER FAMILY BASIS REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS EACH FAMILY HAS ENROLLED IN THE MCHP PRIVATE OPTION PLAN.

(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

15-302.

(a) (1) The Department shall monitor applications to determine whether employers and employees have voluntarily terminated coverage under an employer sponsored health benefit plan that included dependent coverage in order to participate in the [Children and Families Health Care Program] MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM established under [§ 15-301] §§ 15-301 AND 15-301.1 of this subtitle.

(2) The Department, in particular, shall review applications of individuals who qualified for Program benefits under the [Children and Families