



Statement on behalf of the Lamont Administration by Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford of the Department of Social Services, administering agency for Medicaid, about the Trump Administration's 'Healthy Adult Opportunity' (aka block grant) announcement:

- Today's announcement from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on so-called block grants for Medicaid will not impact Connecticut's Medicaid program (also known as HUSKY Health). Connecticut has no intention of participating.
- This is an ill-conceived and unnecessary change that could fundamentally degrade a critical public health program.
- As background, CMS is offering states the choice to apply for demonstration programs that would significantly change funding for part of the Medicaid program. Under current Medicaid laws, states and the federal government share the expenses for the Medicaid program. As long as individuals meet the qualifications for the program, they are entitled to the benefit. Under this new set-up, states would agree to cap, or block-grant, a portion of the funding in exchange for the ability to limit services and benefits, with the result that some individuals may lose benefits, or coverage altogether.
- This is a significant departure from the program as it was conceived by Congress and has operated for over 50 years.
- Connecticut has a record of efficiently and effectively operating our Medicaid program. Our cost trends are significantly lower than both Medicare and commercial coverage, and our access to care remains excellent.
- In addition, research has demonstrated that the Medicaid expansion program has positively impacted the physical, mental and economic health of those who receive coverage. We strongly reject any efforts to turn back the clock on this important health program.

Ned Lamont, Governor
Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner

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