

August 23, 2012

Dear Board Members,

Please support county eligibility workers in deciding which way to go in screening access to affordable health care.

Counties have been gearing up for the influx of calls from newly covered recipients, and stand ready to handle the job of eligibility determination through existing customer service centers.

The exchange board can choose to build on this network that performs Medi-Cal eligibility determination -- or try to build a new system from scratch. The latter involves creating a state-based system that could divide eligibility work between counties, the state and even private contractors. This new system would require hiring a new cadre of workers to do work that today is performed by trained county staff. This option is riskier, likely to cost more, and would create a more complex, untested network for our customers to navigate

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