

New York

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STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

ASSET VERIFICATION SYSTEM

1940(a) of the Act

1. The agency will provide for the verification of assets for purposes of determining or redetermining Medicaid eligibility for aged, blind and disabled Medicaid applicants and recipients using an Asset Verification System (AVS) that meets the following minimum requirements:
 - A. The request and response system must be electronic:
 - (1) Verification inquiries must be sent electronically via the internet or similar means from the agency to the financial institution (FI).
 - (2) The system cannot be based on mailing paper based requests.
 - (3) The system must have the capability to accept responses electronically.
 - B. The system must be secure, based on a recognized industry standard of security (e.g., as defined by the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST).
 - C. The system must establish and maintain a database of FIs that participate in the agency's AVS.
 - D. Verification requests also must be sent to FIs other than those identified by applicants and recipients, based on some logic such as geographic proximity to the applicant's home address, or other reasonable factors whenever the agency determines that such requests are needed to determine or redetermine the individual's eligibility.
 - E. The verification requests must include a request for information on both open and closed accounts, going back up to 5 years as determined by the State.

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2. System Development

☐ A. The agency itself will develop an AVS.

In 3 below, provide any additional information the agency wants to include.

☒ B. The agency will hire a contractor to develop an AVS.

In 3 below provide any additional information the agency wants to include.

☐ C. The agency will be joining a consortium to develop an AVS.

In 3 below, identify the States participating in the consortium. Also, provide any other information the agency wants to include pertaining to how the consortium will implement the AVS requirements.

☐ D. The agency already has a system in place that meets the requirements for an acceptable AVS.

In 3 below, describe how the existing system meets the requirements in Section 1.

☐ E. Other alternative not included in A. – D. above.

In 3 below, describe this alternative approach and how it will meet the requirements in Section 1.

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3. Provide the AVS implementation information requested for the implementation approach checked in Section 2, and any other information the agency may want to include.

[New York State's Financial Institution Recipient Match (FIRM) is a State developed financial institution computer match that provides Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) with resource information for use in assessing Medicaid and Temporary Assistance eligibility of applicant/recipients (A/Rs). FIRM is part of the resource file integration (RFI) system. The RFI system compares A/Rs against individuals on the resource files of various State and Federal agencies and financial institutions in order to verify the information provided by A/Rs on the Medicaid application and renewal forms and to provide additional information to the Medicaid eligibility worker.

When an applicant/recipient is being reviewed for eligibility or having their eligibility redetermined, they are subject to the RFI process. As part of this process, FIRM is accomplished by electronically matching the demographic information of the A/Rs to the financial institution database maintained by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). The A/R is matched against all financial institutions on the database. If multiple matches are made, all information will be provided electronically to the eligibility worker at the LDSS office to review.

OTDA maintains a database of financial information from approximately 800 financial institutions. These financial institutions are comprised of New York State only financial institutions as well as national and international financial institutions. Financial institutions submit their account information through a secure file transmission to OTDA. Some institutions update their information weekly while some update the information quarterly. The information collected reflects current and closed accounts as well as demographic changes to the account since the last submission by the financial institution.]

New York State executed a contract with Public Consulting Group on August 15, 2014 for an automated asset and real property verification service. PCG and the Department defined portal requirements and began testing at the end of July 2015. The program will be phased in starting with three upstate counties in March 2016. The remaining upstate counties will begin in June 2016. The AVS portal will be used for both applications and renewals as part of the eligibility (re)determination.

Due to unique data requirements, NYC will begin using AVS in June 2016 for nursing home applications and conversion cases (community Medicaid cases that transition to nursing home coverage). NYC will expand to community applications and renewals in the last the quarter of 2016.

A nightly batch file of Medicaid applicants/recipients (aged, blind and disabled) is pulled from our eligibility system (Welfare Management System) and sent to PCG to access AVS information. A manual web service allows a Medicaid eligibility worker to access AVS information for a non-applying spouse. New forms were created to obtain authorization to use AVS from a non-applying spouse. Information from AVS is returned on a web-based, secure portal.

The Department has established rules to set flags for potential transfer of assets.

Numerous user roles were created in order for Medicaid eligibility workers to manage tasks related to AVS responses.

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