



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

National Institutional Reimbursement Team
Attention: Mark Cooley
CMS, CMCS
7500 Security Boulevard, M/S S3-14-28
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

JUN 22 2018

RE: SPA #18-0026
Long Term Care Facility Services

Dear Mr. Cooley:

The State requests approval of the enclosed amendment #18-0026 to the Title XIX (Medicaid) State Plan for long term care facility services to be effective April 1, 2018 (Appendix I). This amendment is being submitted based on enacted legislation. A summary of the proposed amendment is provided in Appendix II.

This amendment is submitted pursuant to §1902(a) of the Social Security Act (42 USC 1396a(a)) and Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 447, Subpart C, (42 CFR §447).

A copy of the pertinent section of enacted legislation is enclosed for your information (Appendix III). A copy of the public notice of this proposed amendment, which was given in the New York State Register on March 28, 2018, is also enclosed for your information (Appendix IV). In addition responses to the five standard funding questions are also enclosed (Appendix V).


If you have any questions regarding this State Plan Amendment submission, please do not hesitate to contact Regina Deyette, Medicaid State Plan Coordinator, Division of Finance and Rate Setting, Office of Health Insurance Programs at (518) 473-3658.

Sincerely,

Donna Frescatore
Medicaid Director
Office of Health Insurance Programs

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Michael Melendez
Mr. Tom Brady

TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL FOR: HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION		1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: 18-0026	2. STATE New York
		3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICAID)	
TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE April 1, 2018	
5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (<i>Check One</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> NEW STATE PLAN <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (<i>Separate Transmittal for each amendment</i>)			
6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION: §1902(r)(5) of the Social Security Act, and 42 CFR 447		7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT: (in thousands) a. FFY 04/01/18-09/30/18 \$ 250,000.00 b. FFY 10/01/18-09/30/19 \$ 250,000.00	
8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT: Attachment 4.19-D: Page 47(x)(2)(b)		9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (<i>If Applicable</i>): Attachment 4.19-D: Page 47(x)(2)(b)	
10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT: 2018 NH UPL Payments (FMAP = 50%)			
11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (<i>Check One</i>): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER, AS SPECIFIED: <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL			
12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL: 		16. RETURN TO: New York State Department of Health Bureau of Federal Relations & Provider Assessments 99 Washington Ave – One Commerce Plaza Suite 1432 Albany, NY 12210	
13. TYPED NAME: Donna Frescatore			
14. TITLE: Medicaid Director Department of Health			
15. DATE SUBMITTED: JUN 22 2018			
FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY			
17. DATE RECEIVED:		18. DATE APPROVED:	
PLAN APPROVED – ONE COPY ATTACHED			
19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL:		20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL:	
21. TYPED NAME:		22. TITLE:	
23. REMARKS:			

Appendix I
2018 Title XIX State Plan
Second Quarter Amendment
Amended SPA Pages

New York
47(x)(2)(b)

For the period April 1, 1997 through March 31, 1999, proportionate share payments in an annual aggregate amount of \$631.1 million will be made under the medical assistance program to non-state public operated residential health care facilities, excluding public residential health care facilities operated by a town or city within a county. For the period April 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000, proportionate share payments in an annual aggregate amount of \$982 million will be made under the medical assistance program to non-state operated public residential health care facilities, excluding public residential health care facilities operated by a town or city within a county. For annual state fiscal year periods commencing April 1, 2000 and ending March 31, 2005, and April 1, 2005, through March 31, 2009, proportionate share payments in an annual aggregate amount of up to \$991.5 million and \$150.0 million, respectively, for state fiscal year April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010, \$167 million, and for state fiscal years commencing April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011, \$189 million in an annual aggregate amount, and for the period April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012 an aggregate amount of \$172.5 million and for state fiscal years commencing April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013, an aggregate amount of \$293,147,494, and for the period April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, \$246,522,355, and for the period April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015, \$305,254,832, and for the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, \$255,208,911, for the period April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017, \$198,758,133 in an annual aggregate amount, and for the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018, the aggregate amount of \$167,600,071, will be paid semi-annually in September and March, and for the period April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019, the aggregate amount of \$500,000,000, will be paid semi-annually in September and March, which will be made under the medical assistance program to non-state operated public residential health care facilities, including public residential health care facilities located in the counties of Erie, Nassau and Westchester, but excluding public residential health care facilities operated by a town or city within a county.

The amount allocated to each eligible public residential health care facility for the period April 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998 will be calculated as the result of \$631.1 million multiplied by the ratio of their 1995 Medicaid days relative to the sum of 1995 Medicaid days for all eligible public residential health care facilities. The amount allocated to each eligible public residential health care facility for the period April 1, 1998 through March 31, 1999 will be calculated as the result of \$631.1 million multiplied by the ratio of their 1996 Medicaid days relative to the sum of 1996 Medicaid days for all eligible public residential health care facilities. The amount allocated to each public residential health care facility for the period April 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000 will be calculated as the result of \$982 million multiplied by the ratio of their 1997 Medicaid days relative to the sum of 1997 Medicaid days for all eligible public residential health care facilities. The amount allocated to each public residential health care facility for annual state fiscal year periods commencing April 1, 2000 and ending March 31, 2005, and for annual state fiscal year periods commencing April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2009, and for state fiscal years commencing April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2011; April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012; April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013; April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; and April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016; April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017; April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; and April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019 will be calculated as the result of the respective annual aggregate amount multiplied by the ratio of their Medicaid days relative to the sum of Medicaid days for all eligible public residential health care facilities for the calendar year period two years prior provided, however, that an additional amount of \$26,531,995 for the April 1, 2013 through March 2014 period will be distributed to those public residential health care facilities in the list which follows.

TN #18-0026 _____

Approval Date _____

Supersedes TN #17-0038 _____

Effective Date _____

Appendix II
2018 Title XIX State Plan
Second Quarter Amendment
Summary

SUMMARY
SPA #18-0026

This amendment proposes to continue additional payments to non-state government operated nursing homes, including government nursing homes located in the counties of Erie, Nassau, and Westchester, but excluding government nursing homes operated by a town or city within a county, in aggregate amounts of \$500 million for state fiscal year April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

Appendix III
2018 Title XIX State Plan
Second Quarter Amendment
Authorizing Provisions

Public Health Law § 2808(12)(e-1)

(e-1) Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law or regulation, the commissioner shall provide, in addition to payments established pursuant to this article prior to application of this section, additional payments under the medical assistance program pursuant to title eleven of article five of the social services law for non-state operated public residential health care facilities, including public residential health care facilities located in the county of Nassau, the county of Westchester and the county of Erie, but excluding public residential health care facilities operated by a town or city within a county, in aggregate annual amounts of up to one hundred fifty million dollars in additional payments for the state fiscal year beginning April first, two thousand six and for the state fiscal year beginning April first, two thousand seven and for the state fiscal year beginning April first, two thousand eight and of up to three hundred million dollars in such aggregate annual additional payments for the state fiscal year beginning April first, two thousand nine, and for the state fiscal year beginning April first, two thousand ten and for the state fiscal year beginning April first, two thousand eleven, and for the state fiscal years beginning April first, two thousand twelve and April first, two thousand thirteen, and of up to five hundred million dollars in such aggregate annual additional payments for the state fiscal years beginning April first, two thousand fourteen, April first, two thousand fifteen and April first, two thousand sixteen and of up to five hundred million dollars in such aggregate annual additional payments for the state fiscal years beginning April first, two thousand seventeen, April first, two thousand eighteen, and April first, two thousand nineteen. The amount allocated to each eligible public residential health care facility for this period shall be computed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (f) of this subdivision, provided, however, that patient days shall be utilized for such computation reflecting actual reported data for two thousand three and each representative succeeding year as applicable, and provided further, however, that, in consultation with impacted providers, of the funds allocated for distribution in the state fiscal year beginning April first, two thousand thirteen, up to thirty-two million dollars may be allocated in accordance with paragraph (f-1) of this subdivision.

Appendix IV
2018 Title XIX State Plan
Second Quarter Amendment
Public Notice

patients it provides services to are attributed to the care of uninsured patients; provides care to uninsured patients in its emergency room, hospital based clinics and community based clinics, including the provision of important community services, such as dental care and prenatal care.

The estimated annual net aggregate increase in gross Medicaid expenditures attributable to this initiative is \$20 million.

Effective on or after April 1, 2018, payments to Critical Access Hospitals, Safety Net Hospitals, and Sole Community Hospitals will be based on criteria as determined by the Commissioner of Health.

The estimated annual net aggregate increase in gross Medicaid expenditures attributable to this initiative contained in the budget for state fiscal year 2018/2019 is \$40 million.

Long Term Care Services

Effective on or after April 1, 2018, continues additional payments to non-state government operated public residential health care facilities, including public residential health care facilities located in Nassau, Westchester, and Erie counties, but excluding public residential health care facilities operated by a town or city within a county, in aggregate amounts of up to \$500 million. The amount allocated to each eligible public RHCF will be in accordance with the previously approved methodology, provided, however that patient days shall be utilized for such computation reflecting actual reported data for 2016 and each representative succeeding year as applicable. Payments to eligible RHCF's may be added to rates of payment or made as aggregate payments.

The overall combined estimated annual net aggregate increase in gross Medicaid expenditures attributable to the extension of all upper payment limit (UPL) payments for state fiscal year 2018/2019 in \$2.5 billion.

Effective on or after April 1, 2018, the Commissioner shall convene with New York State Nursing Home Associations and other industry experts alongside representatives from the New York State Health Department, to revise the current Case Mix collection process in an effort to promote a higher degree of accuracy in the case mix data which would result in a reduction of audit findings. Pending the development and implementation of the revised process, the commissioner shall be authorized to reduce the overall amount of case mix reimbursement as is necessary to achieve savings.

The estimated annual net aggregate decrease in gross Medicaid expenditures attributable to this initiative contained in the budget for state fiscal year 2018/2019 is \$15 million.

Effective on or after April 1, 2018 this proposes legislation to authorize the department to conduct a study of Home and Community Based Services in rural areas of the state. This study will include a review and analysis of factors including but not limited to transportation costs, costs of direct care personnel including home health aides, personal care attendants and other direct service personnel, and opportunities for telehealth and/ or technological advances to improve efficiencies.

The Legislation would also authorize the department to provide a targeted, Medicaid rate enhancement if supported by the study, for fee for service personal care.

The estimated annual net aggregate increase in gross Medicaid expenditures attributable to this initiative contained in the budget for state fiscal year 2018/2019 is \$3 million.

The following is a clarification for the partial restoration of the two percent annual uniform reduction of Medicaid payments which was originally noticed on March 26, 2014. Effective on or after April 1, 2018, supplemental payments will be made to all RHCF Nursing Homes for the value of SFY 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 beginning SFY 2018/19 and will be paid out at \$70 million each year over four years. Additional supplemental payments will be made each year beginning in SFY 2018/19 in the amount of \$70 million.

The estimated annual net aggregate increase in gross Medicaid expenditures attributable to this initiative contained in the budget for state fiscal year 2018/2019 is \$140,000,000.

The public is invited to review and comment on this proposed State Plan Amendment, a copy of which will be available for public review

on the Department's website at http://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/state_plans/status. Individuals without Internet access may view the State Plan Amendments at any local (county) social services district.

For the New York City district, copies will be available at the following places:

New York County
250 Church Street
New York, New York 10018

Queens County, Queens Center
3220 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, New York 11101

Kings County, Fulton Center
114 Willoughby Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Bronx County, Tremont Center
1916 Monterey Avenue
Bronx, New York 10457

Richmond County, Richmond Center
95 Central Avenue, St. George
Staten Island, New York 10301

For further information and to review and comment, please contact: Department of Health, Division of Finance and Rate Setting, 99 Washington Ave., One Commerce Plaza, Suite 1432, Albany, NY 12210, or e-mail: spa_inquiries@health.ny.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Health

Pursuant to 42 CFR Section 447.205, the Department of Health hereby gives public notice of the following:

The Department of Health proposes to amend the Title XIX (Medicaid) State Plan for institutional care related to temporary rate adjustments to providers that are undergoing closure, merger, consolidation, acquisition or restructuring themselves or other health care providers. These payments are authorized by § 2826 of the New York Public Health Law. The following changes are proposed:

Additional temporary rate adjustments have been reviewed and approved for the following hospital:

- Strong Memorial Hospital

The aggregate payment amounts total up to \$4,163,227 for the period April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

The aggregate payment amounts total up to \$4,594,780 for the period April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

The aggregate payment amounts total up to \$4,370,030 for the period April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

The public is invited to review and comment on this proposed State Plan Amendment. Copies of which will be available for public review on the Department's website at http://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/state_plans/status.

Copies of the proposed State Plan Amendments will be on file in each local (county) social services district and available for public review.

For the New York City district, copies will be available at the following places:

New York County
250 Church Street
New York, New York 10018

Queens County, Queens Center
3220 Northern Boulevard
Long Island City, New York 11101

Appendix V
2018 Title XIX State Plan
Second Quarter Amendment
Responses to Standard Funding Questions

LONG TERM CARE SERVICES
State Plan Amendment #18-0026

CMS Standard Funding Questions (NIRT Standard Funding Questions)

The following questions are being asked and should be answered in relation to all payments made to all providers under Attachment 4.19-D of your state plan.

- 1. Section 1903(a)(1) provides that Federal matching funds are only available for expenditures made by States for services under the approved State plan. Do providers receive and retain the total Medicaid expenditures claimed by the State (includes normal per diem, supplemental, enhanced payments, other) or is any portion of the payments returned to the State, local governmental entity, or any other intermediary organization? If providers are required to return any portion of payments, please provide a full description of the repayment process. Include in your response a full description of the methodology for the return of any of the amount or percentage of payments that are returned and the disposition and use of the funds once they are returned to the State (i.e., general fund, medical services account, etc.)**

Response: Providers do retain the payments made pursuant to this amendment. However, this requirement in no way prohibits the public provider, including county providers, from reimbursing the sponsoring local government for appropriate expenses incurred by the local government on behalf of the public provider. The State does not regulate the financial relationships that exist between public health care providers and their sponsoring governments, which are extremely varied and complex. Local governments may provide direct and/or indirect monetary subsidies to their public providers to cover on-going unreimbursed operational expenses and assure achievement of their mission as primary safety net providers. Examples of appropriate expenses may include payments to the local government which include reimbursement for debt service paid on a provider's behalf, reimbursement for Medicare Part B premiums paid for a provider's retirees, reimbursement for contractually required health benefit fund payments made on a provider's behalf, and payment for overhead expenses as allocated per federal Office of Management and Budget Circular 2 CFR 200 regarding Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments. The existence of such transfers should in no way negate the legitimacy of these facilities' Medicaid payments or result in reduced Medicaid federal financial participation for the State. This position was further supported by CMS in review and approval of SPA 07-07C when an on-site audit of these transactions for New York City's Health and Hospitals Corporation was completed with satisfactory results.

- 2. Section 1902(a)(2) provides that the lack of adequate funds from local sources will not result in lowering the amount, duration, scope, or quality of care and services available under the plan. Please describe how the state share of each type of Medicaid payment (normal per diem,**

supplemental, enhanced, other) is funded. Please describe whether the state share is from appropriations from the legislature to the Medicaid agency, through intergovernmental transfer agreements (IGTs), certified public expenditures (CPEs), provider taxes, or any other mechanism used by the state to provide state share. Note that, if the appropriation is not to the Medicaid agency, the source of the state share would necessarily be derived through either an IGT or CPE. In this case, please identify the agency to which the funds are appropriated. Please provide an estimate of total expenditure and State share amounts for each type of Medicaid payment. If any of the non-federal share is being provided using IGTs or CPEs, please fully describe the matching arrangement including when the state agency receives the transferred amounts from the local government entity transferring the funds. If CPEs are used, please describe the methodology used by the state to verify that the total expenditures being certified are eligible for Federal matching funds in accordance with 42 CFR 433.51(b). For any payment funded by CPEs or IGTs, please provide the following:

- (i) a complete list of the names of entities transferring or certifying funds;
- (ii) the operational nature of the entity (state, county, city, other);
- (iii) the total amounts transferred or certified by each entity;
- (iv) clarify whether the certifying or transferring entity has general taxing authority; and,
- (v) whether the certifying or transferring entity received appropriations (identify level of appropriations).

Response: Payments made to service providers under the provisions of this SPA are funded with federal and local funding through an Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT). For these payments, the non-Federal share totals of up to \$250 million and is transferred from the sponsoring local county governments, who do have general taxing authority. There are no State appropriations for these governments for this purpose.

Regarding your question on the matching arrangement when the state receives the transferred amounts from the local government entity, please refer to the October 23, 2006 letter from Nicholas Meister, previously provided to CMS, whereby instructions are provided to local government entities when transferring funds for this purpose.

3. **Section 1902(a)(30) requires that payments for services be consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care. Section 1903(a)(1) provides for Federal financial participation to States for expenditures for services under an approved State plan. If supplemental or enhanced payments are made, please provide the total amount for each type of supplemental or enhanced payment made to each provider type.**

Response: For the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 supplemental payments authorized in this attachment will be paid to providers of services in an

amount up to \$500 million. These payments will be made to the non-state government owned or operated provider category.

- 4. Please provide a detailed description of the methodology used by the state to estimate the upper payment limit (UPL) for each class of providers (State owned or operated, non-state government owned or operated, and privately owned or operated). Please provide a current (i.e. applicable to the current rate year) UPL demonstration. Under regulations at 42 CFR 4447.272, States are prohibited from setting payment rates for Medicaid inpatient services that exceed a reasonable estimate of the amount that would be paid under Medicare payment principals.**

Response: The State and CMS are having ongoing discussions to complete the 2018 NH UPL.

- 5. Does any governmental provider receive payments that in the aggregate (normal per diem, supplemental, enhanced, other) exceed their reasonable costs of providing services? If payments exceed the cost of services, do you recoup the excess and return the Federal share of the excess to CMS on the quarterly expenditure report?**

Response: Effective January 1, 2012, the rate methodology included in the approved State Plan for non-specialty nursing facility services for the operating component of the rate is a blended statewide/peer group price adjusted for case mix and wage differentials wage equalization factor. Specialty nursing facility and units are paid the operating rate in effect on January 1, 2009. The capital component of the rate for all specialty and non-specialty facilities is based upon a cost based methodology. We are unaware of any requirement under current federal law or regulation that limits individual provider payments to their actual costs.

ACA Assurances:

- 1. Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Under section 1902(gg) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as amended by the Affordable Care Act, as a condition of receiving any Federal payments under the Medicaid program during the MOE period indicated below, the State shall not have in effect any eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures in its Medicaid program which are more restrictive than such eligibility provisions as in effect in its Medicaid program on March 10, 2010.**

MOE Period.

- **Begins on: March 10, 2010, and**
- **Ends on: The date the Secretary of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services determines an Exchange established by a State under the provisions of section 1311 of the Affordable Care Act is fully operational.**

Response: This SPA complies with the conditions of the MOE provision of section 1902(gg) of the Act for continued funding under the Medicaid program.

2. **Section 1905(y) and (z) of the Act provides for increased FMAPs for expenditures made on or after January 1, 2014 for individuals determined eligible under section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Act. Under section 1905(cc) of the Act, the increased FMAP under sections 1905(y) and (z) would not be available for States that require local political subdivisions to contribute amounts toward the non-Federal share of the State's expenditures at a greater percentage than would have been required on December 31, 2009.**

Prior to January 1, 2014 States may potentially require contributions by local political subdivisions toward the non-Federal share of the States' expenditures at percentages greater than were required on December 31, 2009. However, because of the provisions of section 1905(cc) of the Act, it is important to determine and document/flag any SPAs/State plans which have such greater percentages prior to the January 1, 2014 date in order to anticipate potential violations and/or appropriate corrective actions by the States and the Federal government.

Response: This SPA would [] / would not [✓] violate these provisions, if they remained in effect on or after January 1, 2014.

3. **Please indicate whether the State is currently in conformance with the requirements of section 1902(a)(37) of the Act regarding prompt payment of claims.**

Response: The State does comply with the requirements of section 1902(a)(37) of the Act regarding prompt payment of claims.

Tribal Assurance:

Section 1902(a)(73) of the Social Security Act the Act requires a State in which one or more Indian Health Programs or Urban Indian Organizations furnish health care services to establish a process for the State Medicaid agency to seek advice on a regular ongoing basis from designees of Indian health programs whether operated by the Indian Health Service HIS Tribes or Tribal organizations under the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act ISDEAA or Urban Indian Organizations under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

IHCIA Section 2107(e)(I) of the Act was also amended to apply these requirements to the Children's Health Insurance Program CHIP. Consultation is required concerning Medicaid and CHIP matters having a direct impact on Indian health programs and Urban Indian organizations.

- a) **Please describe the process the State uses to seek advice on a regular ongoing basis from federally recognized tribes Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations on matters related to**

Medicaid and CHIP programs and for consultation on State Plan Amendments waiver proposals waiver extensions waiver amendments waiver renewals and proposals for demonstration projects prior to submission to CMS.

- b) Please include information about the frequency inclusiveness and process for seeking such advice.**
- c) Please describe the consultation process that occurred specifically for the development and submission of this State Plan Amendment when it occurred and who was involved.**

Response: Tribal consultation was performed in accordance with the State's tribal consultation policy as approved in SPA 17-0065, and documentation of such is included with this submission. To date, no feedback has been received from any tribal representative in response to the proposed change in this SPA.