



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services
3 West Road, Virks Building, Cranston, RI 02920
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Name of Regulation: 210-RICR-30-00-3: Medicaid Application and Renewal Process

Posted for Public Comment on 5/30/25

Comment Period Ended on 6/30/25

Summary Response to Comments 7/28/25

	Respondent	Nature of the Comments	EOHHS' Response
1.	Sam Bell	Concern regarding whether or not EOHHS has authority to use commercial data sources other than TWN Concern regarding accuracy of data Implies that the reason the State is choosing to use commercial data sources is to increase the number of eligibility denials	The State will be using The Work Number. The income data provided via The Work Number is taken directly from employer's payroll records. The Work Number is not permitted to modify the information received from the employer. System controls are in place to ensure the information utilized by the Medicaid program is limited to the information pertinent to an eligibility determination. Another reason for confidence in the accuracy of this source is that since July 2013, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has held a private, commercial contract with The Work Number to provide current income data through the Verify Current Income (VCI) Hub service with the Current Sources of Income (CSI) contractor. The Work Number provides current income information sourced from employer-reports and job status data that is updated each employer payroll period. EOHHS is adding The Work Number as an additional data source to improve the verification of financial eligibility for Medicaid members. The State currently utilizes the State Wage Information Collection Agency (SWICA) data from the RI Department of Labor and Training to verify financial eligibility for Medicaid applicants and existing members. SWICA is updated by DLT on a quarterly basis and only provides income details for in-state employers. These limitations can lead to inaccurate verifications of financial eligibility. The more accurate data from commercial sources would not necessarily lead to a higher number of terminations. Instead, it would result in more accurate eligibility determinations across the board. For example, if an individual lost their job within the last month, the DLT data could be from the prior quarter and reflect historical wages from when the member was employed. Since The Work Number data is updated by pay period, the data used to determine eligibility in this scenario would reflect the loss of employment that occurred within the last month. The State would confirm the members attestation of no wages with the information received from The Work Number.



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		Concern related to the removal of the IRS tuition and fees deduction	The tuition and fees deduction was removed by the IRS and was not available after 2020. Instead the income limitations for the lifetime learning credit were increased by the IRS (IRS Publication 17, 2021).
2.	Shamus Durac RIPIN	Concern with: - Placing trust in a private corporation that is not accountable to the public in the way government-controlled data sources are - Accuracy of information- outdated info, mixing up individuals with similar names or people living at the same address, issues for those who have been victims of identity fraud - Difficulty of disputing inaccurate information - Exposing Medicaid applicants to data theft If the State moves forward with the use of commercial data sources, requests that: - The State has access to an audit trail with respect to the source/origin of the income data for any particular applicant or beneficiary, including the name of the purported employer and the dates of most recent employment, allowing the applicant/beneficiary and the State to understand the source of data when its accuracy is in dispute; ➤ (Without access to this level of detail, it is doubtful that the State could prevail at hearing or in court in the case of a dispute.) - The State have access to detailed information about how the source obtains its data, and that this information be made publicly available to support vetting, transparency, and trust; - The State uses trusted public data sources (such as SWICA) first, and then uses commercial data only where the public data is missing;	The accuracy of data from The Work Number is supported by the fact that it is the source for CMS's "VCI Hub," as well as the fact that it is updated more often than SWICA and includes employment data from non-RI employers. In accordance with RI state law, individuals will be identified based on their name as well as their Social Security Number, which should minimize identification errors of the kind raised by this comment. EOHHS's use of The Work Number data will not expose applicants or beneficiaries to a higher risk of data theft, because individuals' data is already housed in The Work Number currently, whether or not EOHHS accesses it. EOHHS's use of the data does not create any new opportunities for data theft. If the accuracy of data is in dispute, and the applicant/beneficiary appeals, the State would have and make available to the individual the information on the data source, including all information received from The Work Number. The information noted in this comment is included in what the State will receive from The Work Number, and thus would be available to review as part of any appeal. The Work Number receives data directly from employers, payroll providers, or third-party administrators that choose to use The Work Number for employment verifications. The Work Number reports this data as it is received from these sources. However, the information returned from The Work Number does not indicate whether the data was returned by an employer, payroll provider, or third-party administrator. The state plans to rely on data from The Work Number first, because this information is more reliable. EOHHS conducts testing in the system design process and will ensure proper functioning



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		The State perform adequate quality assurance testing before deploying any commercially available data source, and report the results of this testing publicly.	before deployment
3.	Steven Brown RI ACLU	Requests verification that HHS approved the use of these commercial data sources (42 CFR 435.945(k)) 5.8(A)(1)(c) Request that the language specify which data sources are being used 5.8(B)(2) Request that regulation state that commercial databases will only be used in instances when the difference between the income attestation and government data sources is greater than 10% 5.10(A)- request language indicating that the beneficiary will be informed of the source and type of income data upon which EOHHS has relied to identify a discrepancy from the income to which the beneficiary has attested.	CMS approved EOHHS's contract with The Work Number on July 2, 2025 EOHHS will be using The Work Number. This information will be made available on the EOHHS website. The state plans to rely on data from The Work Number first, because this information is more reliable. In the case of an appeal, individuals will have access to information on all data sources used and the specific information returned by those sources, including The Work Number.