MEPD and Texas Works Bulletin 20-02

Date: February 18, 2020

To: Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff
    Program Managers
    Eligibility Services Supervisors
    Regional Attorneys
    Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
      State Office 2115

Subject: Reasonable Opportunity for Healthy Texas Women (HTW)

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures. Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- Texas Works Handbook (TWH) at http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins;
Reasonable Opportunity for Healthy Texas Women (HTW)

Background
On January 22, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the Healthy Texas Women (HTW) Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver, which allows the state to utilize federal funding for the HTW program. Under the immediate terms and conditions for the waiver, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) must allow reasonable opportunity when determining eligibility for HTW.

Persons who declare themselves to be U.S. citizens or declare to have an eligible alien status, but for whom verification of citizenship or alien status is unavailable, must be allowed a period of reasonable opportunity to provide verification of citizenship or alien status for most medical programs. The definition of reasonable opportunity is the 95-day period a person is allowed to provide this verification. If no other information is required to determine Medicaid eligibility during the application process besides verification of citizenship or alien status, the person is certified if all other eligibility requirements are met.

Current Policy
Healthy Texas Women
HTW applicants do not receive the 95-day period of reasonable opportunity explained in TWH A-351.1, Reasonable Opportunity. (TWH W-310, General Policy)

New Policy
Healthy Texas Women
HTW applicants receive the 95-day period of reasonable opportunity following policy in TWH A-351.1, Reasonable Opportunity.

Automation
Automation changes are not required.

Correspondence
Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook
The Texas Works Handbook is currently scheduled to be updated in the July 2020 revision.

Updates to the MEPD Handbook are not required.
Training
Training is not required.

Effective Date
This policy is effective February 18, 2020.