



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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Date: April 22, 2015

To: All County Indigent Health Care Program (CIHCP) Contacts

From: Connie Berry
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Subject: Clarification of Residency for the CIHCP

Chapter 61 of the Health and Safety Code is the Texas statute for the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act. The Chapter defines the eligibility requirements for individuals to participate in the program.

Per Chapter 61 Sec. 61.003, (a) . . . a person is presumed to be a resident of the governmental entity in which the person's home or fixed place of habitation to which the person intends to return after a temporary absence is located.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is required, per Sec. 61.006, to establish minimum eligibility standards and application, documentation, and verification procedures for counties to use in determining eligibility under Chapter 61. DSHS criterion regarding eligibility is as follows:

Residence, for the purposes of Chapter 61, is where person's home or fixed place of habitation is located. Citizenship is not required. In addition, per Texas legislation - Chapter 61 .007 (2) – a social security number is not required, only provided if available.

Additionally, per Sec 61.052 General Eligibility Provisions (a) states that a public hospital or hospital district shall provide health care assistance to each eligible resident in its service area who meets:

- (1) the basic income and resources requirements established by the department under Sections 61.006 and 61.008 and in effect when the assistance is requested; or
- (2) a less restrictive income and resources standard adopted by the hospital or hospital district serving the area in which the person resides.

If you have questions, you may contact the office at 512/776-7706.