

**Social Security Administration**  
**Citizenship Verification:**  
**Alabama's Process and Results**

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# Social Security Administration Citizenship Verification

- **CHIPRA** requires citizenship verification in CHIP as of January 1, 2010
  - Note: Medicaid was already required to verify citizenship prior to CHIPRA
- **CHIPRA** provided a new option for states to verify citizenship in partnership with SSA (matching process)
  - Note: Prior to CHIPRA, Medicaid primarily relied on applicants to provide documentation of citizenship



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# Alabama's Approach to Verification in 2010

- To initiate new requirements for CHIP and adopt the proposed SSA matching option in Medicaid
- Reduce documentation burden of applicants
- Streamline/automate the administrative processes to reduce staff time dedicated to verification activities.



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# Citizenship Verification Process for AL CHIP

- Send nightly batch file of CHIP applicants to AL Medicaid to merge with Medicaid applicants requiring verification
- Medicaid sends combined file of applicants to Information Systems Division in the Alabama Dept. of Finance for submission to SSA
- SSA returns report to ISD, ISD returns to Medicaid, Medicaid returns to CHIP
- CHIP creates exception report for those not matched and begins an internal process to verify citizenship before notifying applicant to submit documentation (see next slide)
- For those verified upon first submission to SSA, the process is completed and noted in CHIP system (97% of records submitted)

# AL CHIP Internal Process for Verifying Exceptions from SSA

- Paper applications are reviewed for possible data entry errors
- Check Medicaid database for previous documentation verification
- Make phone contact with applicant to obtain needed information (corrected SSN, full name, DOB)
- Submit to Center for Health Statistics in an attempt to verify an Alabama birth
- If above attempts do not render needed verification, the enrollee is contacted by letter, indicating the need for documentation to verify citizenship and stating that no response will cause ALL Kids insurance coverage to cancel on the specified date.



# AL CHIP Citizenship Verification Results (Jan – Dec 2010)

- **33, 670 CHIP applicants submitted to SSA in 2010**
- **Non-reconciled Rate of .083 percent\* (28 records)**
  - **\* 90 day grace period not yet expired for 14 of these records**
  - **3.0% is the established threshold for non-reconciled records**
- **Terminations – 14 applicants (.04%)**

# **AL CHIP Citizenship Verification Results (Jan – Dec 2010)**

- **1114 records returned as not matched**
- **1000 reconciled through internal processes**
- **Approximately 800 reconciled by correcting name, DOB and/or SSN**
- **Approximately 200 reconciled through AL birth record verification**
- **Only 114 applicant letters sent requesting proof of citizenship**

# Advantages/Impact of SSA Citizenship Verification

- **Significantly reduced the burden on Medicaid staff**
- **While increased administrative requirements for CHIP, the process has required a minimal amount of resources (staff time, programming, etc...)**
- **Reduced burden on applicants/eligibles**
  - **Required verification from only a few families in CHIP**
- **Resulted in only 14 CHIP terminations**