Fed site gives unusable Medicaid data

December 5 2013, by Seanna Adcox

People filling out insurance applications on the federal marketplace may learn they're eligible for Medicaid and their information is being sent to state officials to sign them up. However, states are getting unusable information because of technical problems with the website.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services informed the 36 states using the federal website last week of an alternative process. They must apply to enroll people that way temporarily.

It's the latest problem for a federal marketplace site that's had long wait times and other glitches.

Matt Salo of the National Association of Medicaid Directors says states are waiting to see if new files being sent as early as Tuesday are complete and accurate.

He says people applying through the site may believe they're already enrolled or state officials will contact them, but the agencies have had no way to do that.

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