Joint Entities Meeting 4/17/2023 Minutes

Call to order

University Heights Mayor Louise From called the April 17, 2023 Joint Entities Meeting to order at the Courtyard by Marriott University Heights Kinnick Room. Elected officials present: North Liberty – Mayor Chris Hoffman and Councilors RaQuishia Harrington,; Coralville – Mayor Meghann Foster and Councilors Laurie Goodrich, Hai Huynh, Keith Jones, Mike Knutson; Iowa City – Mayor Bruce Teague and Councilors Laura Bergus, Andrew Dunn, Pauline Taylor; Johnson County Supervisors Rod Sullivan, V Fixmer-Oraiz, Lisa Green-Douglass and Royceann Porter; Iowa City Community School District Board members Maka Pilcher Hayek, J.P. Claussen and Molly Abraham; and University Heights Councilor Stepheny Gahn.

Others present: Sam Jarvis, Rachel Zimmermann, Tracey Mulcahey, Ellen Habel, Ryan Heiar, Geoff Fruin, and other interested parties.

Discussion of the public health emergency unwind (Johnson County Public Health)

Sam Jarvis, Johnson County Public Health, introduced Kim Stupica-Dobbs, Regional Administrator, Region 7 at Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Kansas City, Missouri. Ms. Dobbs shared information about getting qualified Medicare/Medicaid/CHIP individuals re-enrolled for services.

Update on the Bus Rapid Transit RFP for the CRANDIC Corridor (City of Iowa City)

lowa City Councilor Laura Bergus reported that a rapid transit bus survey would be conducted to allow entities to compare the cost of rapid transit bus to light rail for the CRANDIC corridor.

<u>Invitation to create an intergovernmental task force that addresses manufactured housing in</u> Johnson County (V Fixmer Oraiz & Andrew Dunn)

A sign-up sheet for a future meeting was circulated. V Fixmer Oraiz stressed that this task force would further the work of the previous group addressing issues with manufactured housing parks.

Next meeting date, time, and host

Mayor From announced a proposed schedule of next year's meetings with a suggested host. She encouraged entities to contact each other, and trade assigned spots, if conflicts arise with the proposed hosts.

2023

July 17 Johnson County

Oct. 16 ICCSD

2024

Jan. 15 Coralville

April 15 Iowa City

July 15 North Liberty

Oct. 21 University Heights

Adjournment

At 5:25 p.m., Mayor From adjourned the meeting.

Mike Haverkamp, University Heights City Clerk

The End of the Continuous Enrollment Condition: What Partners Need to Know About Medicaid and CHIP Coverage

April 2023



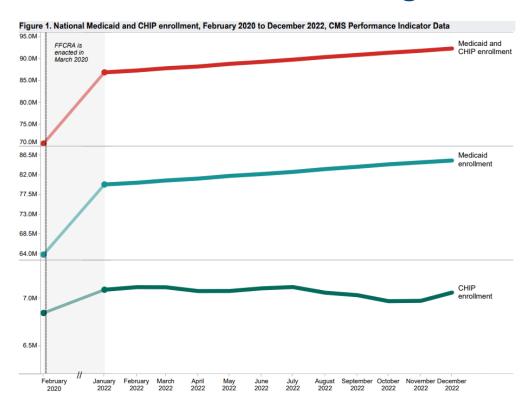
Disclaimer

This information is current at the time of presentation but Medicare and Medicaid policy is subject to change. The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way, unless specifically incorporated into a contract. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law. This communication was printed, published, or produced and disseminated at U.S. tax payer expense.

This publication is a general summary that explains certain aspects of the Medicare, Medicaid/CHIP, and Marketplace Programs, but is not a legal document. The official Program provisions are contained in the relevant laws, regulations, and rulings. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services policy changes frequently, and links to the source documents have been provided within the document for your reference.

Medicaid & CHIP Today: Enrollment Is at an All-Time High

- In March 2020, the Families First Coronavirus
 Response Act (FFCRA) established the
 continuous enrollment condition, which gave
 states extra federal Medicaid funding in
 exchange for maintaining enrollment for most
 individuals.
- As a result of this legislation and flexibilities adopted by states, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollment has grown to a record high.
- Over 92 million individuals were enrolled in health coverage through Medicaid and CHIP as of December 2022.
- This represents an increase of over 21 million individuals, or nearly 31 percent, since February 2020.





Ending the COVID-19 Continuous Enrollment Condition

- Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 (CAA, 2023), enacted in December 2022, the FFCRA Medicaid continuous enrollment condition ended on March 31, 2023.
- States will resume normal operations, including **restarting** full Medicaid and CHIP eligibility renewals and **terminations of coverage for individuals who are no longer eligible**.
- States are now able to terminate Medicaid enrollment for individuals no longer eligible as of April 1, 2023.
- States will need to address a significant volume of pending renewals and other actions.
 This is likely to place a heavy burden on the state workforce and existing processes.
- When states resume full renewals, over 15 million people could lose their current
 Medicaid or CHIP coverage.¹ Many people will then be eligible for coverage through the
 Marketplace or other health coverage and need to transition.
- On January 30, 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced its intent to end the national emergency and PHE declarations related to the COVID-19 pandemic on **May 11, 2023.**



Resuming Normal Eligibility and Enrollment Operations: Expectations of States

- As the continuous enrollment condition ends, states must initiate eligibility renewals for the state's entire Medicaid and CHIP population within 12 months and complete renewals within 14 months.
 - States may have **begun this process in February, March, or April 2023** but may not have terminated eligibility for most individuals in Medicaid prior to April 1, 2023
- States have **4 months** to resume timely processing of all applications, including those received after April 1, 2023.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has been working closely with states for over a year to ensure that they are ready; that eligible enrollees retain coverage by renewing their Medicaid or CHIP; and that enrollees eligible for other sources of coverage, including through the Marketplace, smoothly transition.
- CMS has also issued an array of guidance and tools to support state processing of eligibility and enrollment actions, including new flexibilities and requirements for states.



The Renewal Process

- States must renew eligibility only once every 12 months for MAGI beneficiaries (most kids, adults, pregnant individuals, etc.) and at least once every 12 months for non-MAGI beneficiaries (e.g. aged, blind, disabled individuals).
- States must **begin the renewal process** by first attempting to redetermine eligibility based on reliable information available to the agency without requiring information from the individual (**ex parte renewal**, also known as auto renewal, passive renewal, or administrative renewal).
 - If available information is sufficient to determine continued eligibility, the state renews eligibility and sends a notice.
 - If available information is insufficient to determine continued eligibility, state sends a renewal form and requests additional information from the beneficiary.
 - For MAGI Medicaid, CHIP, and BHP, states must provide the individual at least 30 days to return the form. For Non-MAGI coverage, states must provide a reasonable time frame
- If the Medicaid agency determines that an individual is ineligible for Medicaid, the state determines potential eligibility for other coverage like the Marketplace, and transfers the individual's account information to the Marketplace for a determination.



Preparing for the Work Ahead

Most states have been actively preparing for the end of the continuous enrollment condition for over a year. CMS has encouraged all states to:

- Develop an unwinding plan to prioritize and distribute renewals
- Obtain updated contact information to ensure that individuals receive information on redeterminations.
- Launch a robust outreach and communication plan for beneficiaries and stakeholders
- Engage community partners, health plans, and the provider community to amplify key messages and to provide assistance with renewals

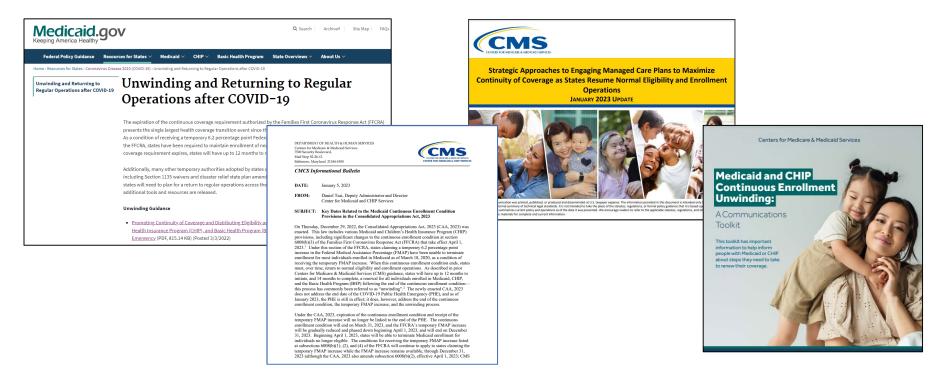
However, there are anticipated challenges to overcome:

- Large volume of renewals for states to complete
- Workforce challenges and staffing shortages experienced by state Medicaid and CHIP agencies
- The long length of time since many enrollees have had to complete a renewal
- The likelihood of outdated mailing addresses and other contact information for enrollees

Multiple resources are available to support both states and partners in this effort.

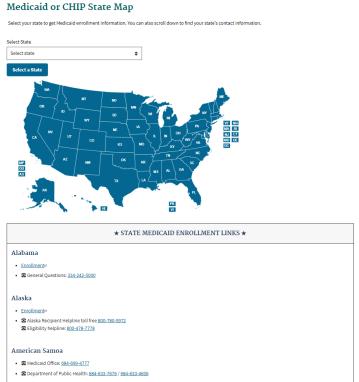


Medicaid.gov/Unwinding: Resource Page for States and Partners



Medicaid.gov/Renewals: Resources for Medicaid and CHIP Enrollees







Communications Strategy

Campaign Goal

 Ensure individuals maintain coverage through renewal, or become enrolled, in the source of coverage for which they are eligible, whether through Medicaid, CHIP, Basic Health Program or the Marketplace

Strategic Approach

- Multi-pronged, whole of government communications approach, in partnership with the states and stakeholders, to ensure people with Medicaid are aware of the steps they need to take to maintain coverage
- Create a national outreach campaign that builds on states' efforts and engages deeply with partners and stakeholders

Timeline

Phase I: Get Ready and Awareness

• Timeline: Underway and refreshed on February 1, 2023

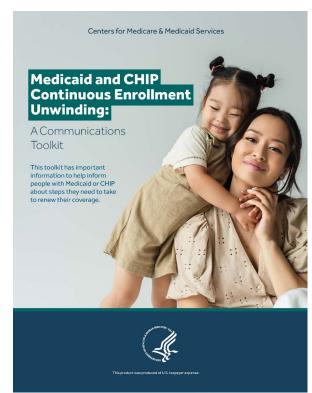
Phase II: Medicaid Re-determination and Retaining Coverage

• Timeline: April 1, 2023 until the end of the Unwinding period



Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding: A Communications Toolkit

- A living resource where products will be added/updated as we learn more about what states, partners and consumers need to respond to
- Contains important information to help inform people with Medicaid or CHIP about steps they need to take to renew their coverage
- Contents include:
 - Overview
 - Summary of research with key insights
 - Key messages
 - Fillable digital flyers: "Have you heard the news? Your state Medicaid office is restarting eligibility reviews"
 - Drop in articles
 - Social media and outreach products
 - Emails
 - SMS/text messages
 - Call Center scripts
 - CMS Partner Tip Sheet
- Available in English and Spanish. Select resources available in Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.





Sample Communications Toolkit Materials

Text Messages

- Make sure you get your Medicaid renewal letter update your contact information if it changed recently: [Link]
- Don't miss your Medicaid renewal letter! Update your contact information if it changed recently: [Link]
- Have coverage through [State Medicaid or CHIP program name]? Make sure your address is up to date so you
 qet your renewal letter: [Link]
- Medicaid/CHIP renewals are coming! Make sure your address is up to date: [Link]
- Changed your address in last 3 years? Update your address with us [or "your state"] so you get your Medicaid renewal letter: [Link]

Social Media Graphics

Now that things are getting back to normal, your #Medicaid renewal will be too. Ensure your state knows where to send your letter. Update your address today: URL





Drop-in Article

Drop-in Article

Important Changes Coming to [Name of State Medicaid or CHIP program] Eligibility

By the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Do you or a family member currently have health coverage through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIPP)? Its o, you may soon need to take steps to find out if you can continue your coverage. Soon, states will resume Medicaid and CHIP eligibility reviews. This means some people with Medicaid or CHIP could be disenrolled from those programs. However, they may be eligible to buy a health plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace 8, and get help paying for it.

Here are some things you can do to prepare.

Make sure your address is up to date

Make sure your state has your current mailing address, phone number, email, or other contact information. This way, they'll be able to contact you about your Medicaid or CHIP coverage.

Check your mail

Your state will mail you a letter about your Medicaid or CHIP coverage. This letter will also let you know if you need to complete a renewal form to see if you still qualify for Medicaid or CHIP. If you get a renewal form, fill it out and return it to your state right away. This may help you avoid a gap in your coverage.

Partner Tip Sheet





Medicaid Unwinding Toolkit Supporting Materials

Rack Card

DON'T RISK A GAP IN YOUR MEDICAID OR CHIP COVERAGE. GET READY TO RENEW NOW.



Following these steps will help determine if you still qualify:





Graphics for Health Providers



Postcard



Fillable Flyer





Call to Action and Key Messages for Partners

CMS Needs Your Help!

What Partners Can Do NOW

• Right now, partners can help **prepare for the renewal process and educate Medicaid and CHIP enrollees about the upcoming changes**. This includes making sure that enrollees have updated their contact information with their State Medicaid or CHIP program and are aware that they need to act when they receive a letter from their state about completing a renewal form.

Key Messages for Partners to Share

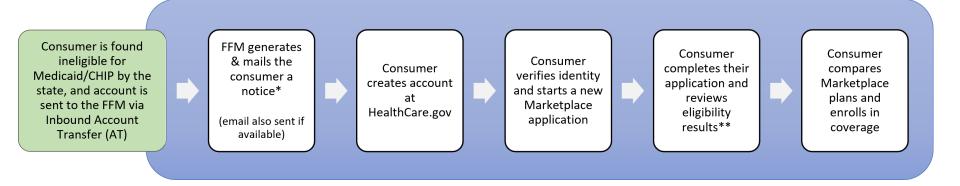
- There are three main messages that partners should focus on now when communicating with people that are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.
 - **Update your contact information** Make sure [Name of State Medicaid or CHIP program] has your current mailing address, phone number, email, or other contact information. This way, they'll be able to contact you about your Medicaid or CHIP coverage.
 - Check your mail [Name of State Medicaid or CHIP program] will mail you a letter about your Medicaid or CHIP coverage. This letter will also let you know if you need to complete a renewal form to see if you still qualify for Medicaid or CHIP.
 - Complete your renewal form (if you get one) Fill out the form and return it to [Name of State Medicaid or CHIP program] right away to help avoid a gap in your Medicaid or CHIP coverage.
- Sample social media posts, graphics, and drop-in articles that focus on these key messages can be found in the <u>Communications Toolkit</u>. The <u>Unwinding resource page</u> will continue to be updated as new resources and tools are released.
- Additional messaging will be shared in the future for Phase II, which focuses on ensuring Medicaid and CHIP enrollees take the necessary steps to renew coverage, or transition to other coverage if they're no longer eligible for Medicaid or CHIP once Unwinding begins.



Federally-Facilitated Marketplace (FFM): Overview of Key FFM Processes and Updates on Plans for Medicaid Unwinding



Process Flow: From State Transfer to Marketplace Enrollment



*Individuals don't need to wait to receive the Inbound AT notice to apply for Marketplace coverage. If an individual receives notice from their state Medicaid/CHIP agency that they have been denied or terminated from Medicaid/CHIP, they are encouraged to immediately come to HealthCare.gov to apply for coverage.

**Eligibility results let the consumer know if they're eligible to enroll in Marketplace plans and include information on any financial help they may be able to use to lower the cost of coverage.

Medicaid Unwinding Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

- To ensure individuals have sufficient time to enroll in Marketplace coverage during the unwinding period, consumers who lose Medicaid/CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023 and July 31, 2024 will be eligible for a 60-day SEP beginning the day they submit or update a Marketplace application.
 - Consumers can access this Unwinding SEP by submitting or updating an application through HealthCare.gov, a certified partner that supports SEPs, or the Marketplace Call Center.
- CMS has published Marketplace guidance on the unwinding SEP: https://www.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/temp-sep-unwinding-faq.pdf
- CMS recommends that Medicaid/CHIP enrollees submit or update an application on HealthCare.gov as soon as they receive their Medicaid/CHIP termination letter from their state.
 - More information can be found at: https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/transfer-to-marketplace/



Overview: FFM Navigator and Other Assistance Personnel

- Federally-Facilitated Marketplace Assisters (including Navigators and certified application counselors) **provide free, unbiased enrollment assistance and play a vital role helping consumers prepare applications to determine eligibility for and enroll in coverage** through the Marketplace and insurance affordability programs.
- Assisters operate year-round—increasing awareness among the uninsured about the coverage options available to them,
 helping consumers find affordable coverage that meets their needs, and assisting consumers to ensure they're equipped with
 the tools and resources needed to utilize and maintain their health coverage all year.
- Right now, assisters in FFM states are helping their communities prepare for the unwinding period by encouraging consumers to:
 - 1. Update their contact information with their state Medicaid or CHIP agency and
 - 2. Look out for a letter from their state about completing a renewal form.
- The FFM has provided additional funding for Navigator grantees to facilitate direct consumer outreach, education, and enrollment activities necessary to ensure seamless transitions into Marketplace coverage.
- Assisters in FFM states will also receive unwinding-specific training, guidance and resources, in addition to other
 programmatic supports geared towards fortifying consumer assistance best practices for Medicaid and Marketplace
 populations.
- Consumers can find assistance from Navigators and other assistance personnel in their area on Find Local Help at https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/

How to Get Help Applying for Marketplace Coverage

If individuals need help completing a Marketplace application, they can:

- Visit HealthCare.gov
 - HealthCare.gov will direct individuals to their state-based Marketplace, as applicable
- Call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325)
- Visit https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/ to make an appointment with someone in their area who can help

Information from Kim Stupica-Dobbs 4/17/2023 Joint Entities Presentation

Blurb

The Medicaid continuous enrollment condition ended on March 31, 2023, and states will be undertaking eligibility renewals for all individuals in their programs. If individuals lose Medicaid coverage, they will be eligible for affordable Marketplace plans. You can find free, local help for Marketplace enrollment, ask questions, and talk about plan choices by visiting https://www.healthcare.gov/find-assistance/

Full Information

Under what is known as the "continuous enrollment condition," State Medicaid agencies have been unable to terminate enrollment for most individuals enrolled in Medicaid as of March 18, 2020, as a condition of receiving a temporary funding increase. The continuous enrollment condition ended on March 31, 2023, with states able to begin to terminate Medicaid enrollment for individuals no longer eligible for Medicaid as early as April 1, 2023. States will have up to 14 months to complete an eligibility renewal for all individuals in their programs, and thus Medicaid coverage losses will occur over time. This process is called the Medicaid continuous enrollment condition unwinding. Many consumers who lose Medicaid coverage will be eligible for affordable Marketplace plans.

Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Unwinding Overview:

- The earliest date states can terminate Medicaid coverage for consumers is April 1, 2023. Consumers who lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023, and July 31, 2024, are eligible for a Medicaid continuous enrollment condition unwinding Special Enrollment Period (SEP). Marketplace-eligible consumers losing Medicaid or CHIP coverage can access the SEP by submitting or updating an application through HealthCare.gov, a certified partner that supports SEPs, or the Marketplace Call Center.
- Navigators and Enrollment Assistance Personnel (EAPs) will have the ability to directly contact impacted consumers in Federally-facilitated Marketplaces (FFMs) to help them understand available coverage options and find affordable coverage that meets their needs, if requested. EAPs are additional contracted assisters CMS is deploying in key locations across FFM states.
 - Consumers may receive a letter including information for an Assister Organization serving their community in advance of this Direct Assisterto-Consumer Outreach.
 - Consumer information will be securely shared with these Assister organizations so that Assisters can conduct this outreach.
- You can find free, local help for Marketplace enrollment, ask questions, and talk about plan choices by visiting https://www.healthcare.gov/find-assistance/

CMS Unwinding Resources

- <u>Unwinding Homepage:</u> The centralized location where states and stakeholders can learn more about Unwinding and access resources to help them plan and prepare.
- Medicaid and CHIP Renewals Page: A webpage designed for people enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP to help them prepare to renew their coverage when states restart eligibility renewals.
- Unwinding Communications Toolkit: The Unwinding Communications Toolkit provides key messages and materials for states and stakeholders to use when communicating with their networks about Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding. The toolkit is available in both English and Spanish. Some outreach materials have also been translated to Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
- <u>Unwinding Toolkit Supporting Materials:</u> This folder contains outreach materials for partners, including flyers, postcards, tear pads, conference cards, and the new Tip Sheet featured in the toolkit.
- <u>Unwinding Speaking Request Form:</u> Submit a request to have someone from HHS or CMS speak about Unwinding at an upcoming event.
- Unwinding Special Enrollment Period Frequently Asked Questions: On January 31, 2023, CMS released information on a temporary Exceptional Circumstances Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for consumers losing Medicaid or CHIP coverage due to unwinding of the Medicaid continuous enrollment condition.

Additional CMS Resources

- Find Local Help Webpage
- HealthCare.gov
- <u>Certified Application Counselor Designated Organization (CDO) Program</u>
 Information
- Information on the Medicare Special Enrollment Period (SEP)