Impact of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on State Medicaid and CHIP Program Eligibility

- In March 2020, federal COVID-19 legislation established the “continuous enrollment condition,” which gave states **extra federal Medicaid funding in exchange for maintaining Medicaid enrollment for most individuals**, even if they are no longer eligible, through the end of the month that the federal COVID-19 PHE ends.

- While the continuous enrollment condition does not apply to **CHIP**, many states implemented **temporary policy changes that had a similar impact** on CHIP enrollment.

- The continuous enrollment condition and temporary state changes to CHIP policies has prevented beneficiaries-— in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories — from **losing health coverage** during the PHE.

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Impact of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on State Medicaid and CHIP Program Eligibility

- **After the PHE, states will resume normal operations,** including **restarting** full Medicaid and CHIP eligibility renewals and **ending coverage for individuals no longer eligible for Medicaid/CHIP –** a month process known as "unwinding."
- 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 and **increase the risk** that individuals lose health coverage.
- According to some estimates, when states resume 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.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are **working closely with states now** to ensure that they are ready when the PHE ends; **eligible enrollees retain coverage** by renewing their Medicaid or CHIP; and **enrollees eligible for other sources of coverage,** including through the Marketplace, smoothly transition.

[1]Available at: https://www.urban.org/research/publication/what-will-happen-medicaid-enrollees-health-coverage-after-public-health-emergency

W O R K I N G T O A C H I E V E H E A L T H E Q U I T Y

National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 28, 2022

Paid for by the US Department of Health and Human Services. Information is considered current at the time of the presentation. The views and opinions expressed outside of this content are those of the presenter and do not reflect views of CMS or the US Department of Health and Human Services. Internal Use Only

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OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH

CMS Strategic Pillars

ADVANCE EQUITY

Advance health equity by addressing the health disparities that underlie our health system

EXPAND ACCESS

Build on the Affordable Care Act and expand access to quality, affordable health coverage and care

ENGAGE PARTNERS

Engage our partners and the communities we serve throughout the policymaking and implementation process

DRIVE INNOVATION

Drive Innovation to tackle our health system challenges and promote value-based, person-centered care

PROTECT PROGRAMS

Protect our programs' sustainability for future generations by serving as a responsible steward of public funds

FOSTER EXCELLENCE

Foster a positive and inclusive workplace and workforce, and promote excellence in all aspects of CMS's operations

CMS Framework for Health Equity

- Allows a framework for CMS to operationalize health equity.
- Expands on the existing CMS Equity Plan to include all CMS programs: Medicare, Marketplace, Medicaid, and CHIP.
- Identifies 5 priority areas.
- Evidence-based:
  - CMS's approach to advancing health equity is informed by decades of research and years of dedicated, focused stakeholder input, and evidence review.
  - Gathers and synthesizes input from health care providers; federal, state, and local partners; tribal nations; individuals and families; researchers; policymakers; and quality improvement and innovation contractors.
- Learn more about the framework at go.cms.gov/framework.
- A one-page ad explaining the framework is also available in Spanish.

Marco de los Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid para la Equidad en Salud de 2022-2023

Definición de la equidad en salud

El logro del más alto nivel de salud para todas las personas, donde todos tienen una oportunidad equitativa y justa de gozar de una salud óptima, independientemente de su raza, etnia, discapacidad, orientación sexual, identidad de género, estado socio-económico, geografía, idioma preferido u otros factores que afectan el acceso a la atención y los resultados sanitarios. Los Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid están trabajando para promover la equidad en salud mediante el diseño, implementando y poniendo en práctica políticas y programas que respalden la salud de todas las personas atendidas por nuestros programas, eliminando las diferencias evitables en los resultados sanitarios que experimentan las personas desfavorecidas o desatendidas, y brindando la atención y el apoyo que nuestros afiliados necesitan para prosperar.

Marco de los Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid para las prioridades de equidad en salud

Prioridad 1: Ampliar la recopilación, el informe y el análisis de datos estandarizados

Prioridad 2: Evaluar las causas de las disparidades dentro de los programas de los Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid y abordar las desigualdades en las políticas y operaciones para eliminar las carencias

Prioridad 3: Desarrollar la capacidad de las organizaciones de asistencia médica y empleo para reducir las disparidades en la salud y la asistencia médica

Prioridad 4: Acceso avanzado al idioma, alfabetización en salud y provisión de servicios culturalmente adaptados

Prioridad 5: Aumentar todas las formas de accesibilidad a los servicios y la cobertura de asistencia médica

Para leer el Marco de 2022-2023 de los Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid para la Equidad en Salud, visite go.cms.gov/framework.

"Como la aseguradora de salud más grande del país, los Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid tienen un papel fundamental que desempeñar para impulsar la próxima década de equidad en salud para las personas desatendidas. Nuestro firme compromiso de promover la equidad en salud ayudará a fomentar un sistema de asistencia médica que beneficie a todos para las generaciones por venir".

Dr. LaShawn McIver, Director, Oficina de Salud de las Minorías de los Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid

La Oficina de Salud de las Minorías ofrece recursos de asistencia técnica para la equidad en salud, destinados a ayudar a las organizaciones de asistencia médica a tomar medidas contra las disparidades en la salud. Si necesita ayuda, visite go.cms.gov/omh o envíe un correo electrónico a HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov.

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Unwinding Guidance and Immigrant Families

- CMS shared updated guidance earlier this year to ensure that when the public health emergency (PHE) eventually ends states resume routine operations, including terminations of eligibility, that renewals of eligibility and transitions between coverage programs occur in an orderly process that minimizes beneficiary burden, and promotes continuity of coverage.
- States will need to review the verification and reasonable opportunity period (ROP) process applied during the PHE in order to determine the appropriate action for individuals whose citizenship or verification status was not completed during the PHE but whose enrollment has been maintained under an ROP to comply with the continuous enrollment condition.
- Additional Unwinding resources:
  - Top 10 Fundamental Actions to Prepare for Unwinding and Resources to Support State Effort
  - Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding: A Communications Toolkit
  - Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding: A Communications Toolkit (Spanish)

Public Charge Final Rule

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a final rule applicable to noncitizens who receive or wish to apply for benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and States that support low-income families and adults.
- The final rule will apply to all noncitizens requesting admission to the U.S. or applying for lawful permanent residence.
- Under the final rule, DHS will no longer penalize individuals who choose to access the vast majority of health-related benefits and other supplemental government services available to them, including most Medicaid benefits and CHIP.
- The final rule will be effective on December 23, 2022.
- "Today's final rule is an important step toward achieving this goal for many Medicaid and CHIP enrollees and their families, and CMS will continue to do everything in our authority to make sure people have access to programs that keep them safe and healthy." – CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure

Connect with CMS OMH

Contact Us

OMH@cms.hhs.gov

Visit Our Website

go.cms.gov/omh

Listserv Signup

bit.ly/CMSOMH

Coverage to Care

CoverageToCare@cms.hhs.gov

Health Equity Technical Assistance Program

HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov

Rural Health

RuralHealth@cms.hhs.gov

Protecting Latino Families When the Public Health Emergency Ends

September 28, 2022

Stan Dorn, Health Policy Director, UnidosUS

Overview

1. What could happen to Latino families when Medicaid eligibility renewals resume?
2. How can community organizations help Latino families stay covered?

UNIDOS US

Latino families face great risks of losing Medicaid

UNIDOSUS

Sources: ASPE 2022; UnidosUS/Families USA/First Focus on Children 2022.

Children and Latinos face great risks of losing Medicaid for administrative reasons

UNIDOS US

Source: ASPE 2022. *Note*: "AAPI" refers to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Eligible beneficiaries projected to lose Medicaid for administrative reasons, by income as a percentage of the federal poverty level (FPL), race, and ethnicity

UNIDOS US

Source: ASPE 2022.

Overview

1. What could happen to Latino families when Medicaid eligibility renewals resume?
2. How can community organizations help Latino families stay covered?

UNIDOS US

Why eligible families lose Medicaid

UNIDOS US

Key messages for families right now

Call Medicaid and give them your address, cell phone, and email address

Watch your mail. If you get a letter from Medicaid, open it right away.

If Medicaid asks you to complete a form, fill it out and send it in it right away.

Medicaid won't hurt your family's ability to legalize or stay in the U.S.

UNIDOS US

Between now and the End of the Public Health Emergency

- Find experts in your state who can provide you with technical assistance
- Consider connecting to state advocacy coalitions
- Stay tuned for development of an early warning system for when the PHE ends

UNIDOS US

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SU CONEXIÓN A LA COMUNIDAD

Preparing for the PHE Wind-Down

Erica Andrade, MPA – Chief Program Officer

Justin Gust, BSW – Director of Community Health

El Centro, Inc.

- We are a for-purpose organization with a 45-year history that serves as a welcoming center for Latino immigrants and families in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties, KS.
- Our programs include:

El Centro

SU CONEXIÓN A LA COMUNIDAD

ACADEMY FOR CHILDREN
NAEYC accredited, year-long, dual language pre-school for children 2½ - 5 years old.

PROMOTORAS DE SALUD
Enrollment for SNAP, Comprando Rico y Sano community classes and healthy cooking demos.

HEALTH NAVIGATION
KC medicine cabinet site, KanCare & Marketplace enrollments, and health care access coordination.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
Emergency assistance, financial literacy, job training and income tax assistance (VITA).

ADVOCACY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Monthly DACA and naturalization clinics, Know Your Rights trainings and VOTER education.

El Centro's ¡Inscríbase! Project

- The project began in 2019, in response to:
  - Mixed-status households experiencing barriers to enrollment
  - Fear around applying due to Public Charge
  - Increasing our outreach to the population during the pandemic
  - Lack of awareness for newly arriving immigrants

El Centro's ¡Inscríbase! Project

What is El Centro's ¡Inscríbase! Project?

- Our project provides the community with both education and the enrollment assistance they need to access public benefits like Medicaid and the Marketplace.
- Our Promotoras de Salud and Medicaid Ambassadors meet the community where they are at to provide the basics on Medicaid. Our Enrollment Specialists and Health Navigators then provide enrollment services.
- We utilize both in-person education and messaging on our social media.

PHE Wind-Down

- We first learned about the wind-down from one of our MCO contacts (United Healthcare) in December 2021.
- With support from the MCO and Community Catalyst, we were able to produce and air a series of 5 PSAs about the wind-down.
- We have kept informed through webinars and communications with our MCO contact.

United Healthcare Community Plan

Community Catalyst

PSA 1: Update Address

PHE Wind-Down

- Messaging: It was important to have clear and consistent messages in each video.

- Visibility: We partnered with local Latino media partners Univision and Telemundo in Kansas City. We also shared videos on Facebook and Instagram.

PHE Wind-Down

- Ask Every Client: Internally, our program staff and our Promotoras de Salud continue to ask clients about their coverage status and updating their contact information.
- Medicaid Stories: We also promote the benefits of Medicaid through sharing our community's stories and experience.

PHE Wind-Down

- Informational Videos: The best way we can get information out to the community is through videos online.

Contact Information

- Questions?

Erica Andrade – eandrade@elcentroinc.com

Justin Gust – jgust@elcentroinc.com

Find us on Facebook:

¡Gracias!

El Centro

SU CONEXIÓN A LA COMUNIDAD

CMS Resources Available in Other Languages

Stefanie Costello, CMS, Office of Communications
Ashley Peddicord-Austin, CMS, Office of Minority Health

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CMS Resources Available in Additional Languages

- **Unwinding Communications Toolkit and Graphics – Available in Spanish**
  - Outreach materials to share information about Unwinding and encourage individuals and families to update their contract information with their state Medicaid agency
  - Contents include:
    - Key messages
    - Social media posts and graphics
    - Drop-in newsletter article
    - Fillable digital flyers
  - Link: https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/downloads/unwinding-comms-toolkit-esp.pdf

- **CuidadoDeSalud.Gov – Information on the Health Insurance Marketplace**

- **Marketplace.cms.gov – Materials available in Spanish**
  - Education and outreach materials with information about the Health Insurance Marketplace
  - Available materials include: fact sheets, flyers, graphics, and more

- **InsureKidsNow.Gov – Materials available in Spanish and other languages**
  - Information on Medicaid and CHIP enrollment and coverage renewals
  - Website is available in Spanish at www.espanol.insurekidsnow.gov

CMS Resources by Language

- List of available resources from CMS in additional languages
- Organized by language, then program
- https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/resource-center/resources-by-language

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About CMS > CMS Office of Minority Health > Resource Center > Resources by Language

CMS Office of Minority Health | About CMS Office of Minority Health | Equity Initiatives | Research and Data | Resource Center | Contact Us

- Immunization and Vaccine Resources
- Health Care Professionals & Researchers
- Consumers & Community Partners
- Resources by Language

Resources by Language

Browse through the collection of CMS resources categorized by language. We have resources in 18 languages to help people make informed healthcare decisions and be active partners in their healthcare and the healthcare of their families. Download or order copies of CMS resources at no cost to you or your organization. See the instructions to order printed copies and have them shipped directly to you.

Find additional Medicare resources in 23 languages on Medicare.gov.

Arabic عربي

Topic	Resource Type	Type
Coverage to Care - Consumer Resources	5 Ways to Make the Most of Your Health Coverage (PDF)	PDF
	A Roadmap to Better Care and a Healthier You	PDF
	A Roadmap to Better Care and a Healthier You - 8.5" x 11"	PDF

Coverage to Care Resources

- Preventive Services Flyers: Use these flyers to take advantage of services available at no cost under most health coverage.
  - Adults (English, Spanish)
  - Women (English, Spanish)
  - Men (English, Spanish)
  - Teens (English, Spanish)
  - Children (English, Spanish)
  - Infants (English, Spanish)
- Roadmap to Better Care: This roadmap explains what health coverage is and how to use it to get primary care and preventive services so that you and your family live long, healthy lives.
  - English
  - Spanish
- Visit the Coverage to Care website to find additional resources: go.cms.gov/c2c

CMS OMH Resources

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, CMS OMH is focusing on the nation's 60.5 million Hispanics by highlighting some common health disparities facing Hispanic populations and sharing resources to help further health equity. Our Health Equity Observance webpage has been updated to highlight resources in Spanish, data, resources on language access, culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS), and more:

- Disparities in Health Care in Medicare Advantage by Race, Ethnicity, and Sex: April 2022
- Understanding the Health Needs of Diverse Groups of Hispanic Medicare Beneficiaries
- A Practical Guide to Implementing the National CLAS Standards
- Guide To Developing A Language Access Plan
- Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool (Spanish)

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Georgetown University: 50-State Unwinding Tracker

Tricia Brooks, Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, Center for Children and Families

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Q & A

Stefanie Costello, CMS, Office of Communications

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Closing Remarks

Stefanie Costello, CMS, Office of Communications

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Partner Resources

- **Unwinding Homepage on Medicaid.gov**
  www.medicaid.gov/unwinding

- **Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiary Resource Page**
  www.medicaid.gov/renewals

- **Unwinding Communications Toolkit and Graphics**
  English: https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/downloads/unwinding-comms-toolkit.pdf
  Spanish: https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/downloads/unwinding-comms-toolkit-esp.pdf
  Graphics: https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/downloads/unwinding-comms-toolkit-graphics.zip

- **Recordings, Transcripts, and Slides from Past Webinars**
  www.cms.gov/cms-national-stakeholder-calls

- **Unwinding Speaking Requests Form**
  https://cmsgov.secure.force.com/act/Activityc

UPCOMING WEBINAR DATES

The fourth Wednesday of every month from 12:00-1:00pm ET.

- Wednesday, October 26 @ 12:00pm ET
- Wednesday, December 7 @ 12:00pm ET

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