



ENDING THE PHE: IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNTIES

NACo Webinar | April 11, 2023 | 3PM – 4 PM ET



Welcome and Introductions



Deborah Lieberman

Commissioner

Montgomery County, Ohio

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

San Diego County

Douglas County/National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA)

Audience Q&A

Hon. Deborah Lieberman

Commissioner, Montgomery County, Ohio; Vice Chair, NACo Human Services and Education Committee

Jessica Stephens

Senior Policy Advisor, Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services, CMS

Alberto Gonzalez Jr.

Senior Advisor for External Engagement, FNS

Rick Wanne

Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, San Diego County Department of Health and Human Services

Daniel Makelky

Director, Human Services, Douglas County, Colorado; President, NACHSA

Raise your hand to be recognized, submit questions via the Zoom “question” box or by emailing questions@naco.org

Housekeeping

- Introduce yourself in the chat!

- Keep your eyes on the chat box for links to resources

- Use the Q&A box to ask questions or email questions@naco.org.

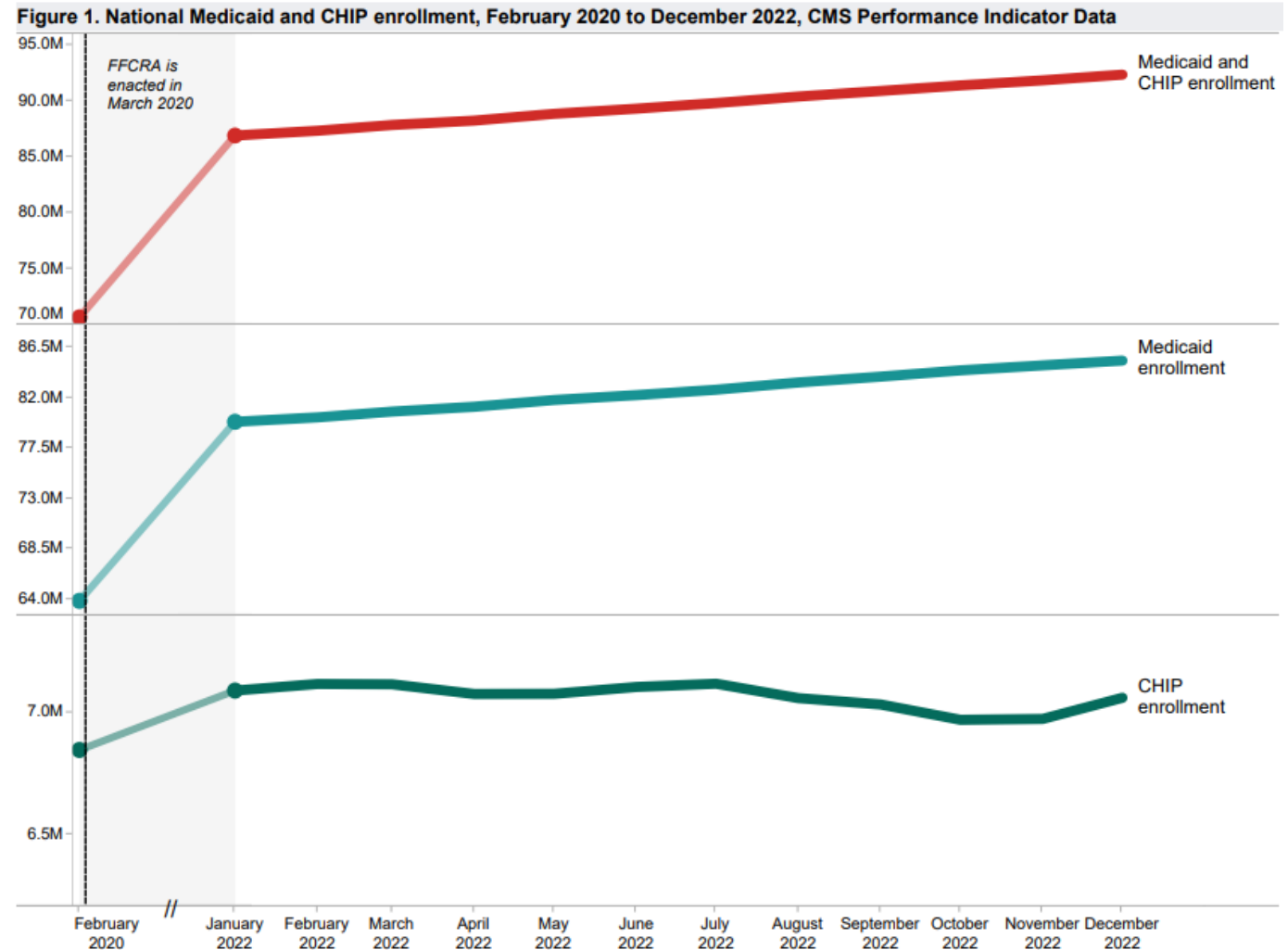
- The webinar is being recorded. The slide deck and recording will both be available on NACo's website after the event!

Preparing for the End of the Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Condition

Jessica Stephens,
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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 nearly 22 million individuals**, or over 30 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 have begun resuming normal operations, including **restarting** full Medicaid and CHIP eligibility renewals and **terminations of coverage for individuals who are no longer eligible.**
- States will be able to terminate Medicaid enrollment for individuals no longer eligible **beginning on 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.

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

Resuming Normal Eligibility and Enrollment Operations: Expectations of States

- Now that the continuous enrollment condition has ended, states must **initiate** eligibility renewals for the state's entire Medicaid and CHIP population within **12 months** and **complete** renewals within **14 months**.
 - States had the option to **begin this process in February, March, or April 2023** but could not terminate 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.

Preparing for the Work Ahead

Anticipated 2023 State Timelines for Initiating Unwinding-Related Renewals

State	First Month Unwinding-Related Renewals are Initiated	Effective Date of First Anticipated Terminations for Procedural Reasons*
Alabama	April	June
Alaska	April	June
Arizona	February	April
Arkansas	February	April
California	April	July
CNMI	March	May
Colorado	March	June
Connecticut	March	May
Delaware	April	July
District of Columbia	April	June
Florida	March	May
Georgia	April	June
Guam	TBD	TBD
Hawaii	April	June
Idaho	February	April
Illinois	April	July
Indiana	March	May
Iowa	February	May
Kansas	March	May
Kentucky	April	June
Louisiana	April	July
Maine	April	June

Key Challenges:

- 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

Medicaid.gov/Unwinding: Resources for States and Partners

Medicaid.gov
Keeping America Healthy

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Federal Policy Guidance | Resources for States | Medicaid | CHIP | Basic Health Program | State Overviews | About Us

Home > Resources for States > Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) > Unwinding and Returning to Regular Operations after COVID-19

Unwinding and Returning to Regular Operations after COVID-19

The expiration of the continuous coverage requirement authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) presents the single largest health coverage transition event since the first open enrollment period. As a condition of receiving a temporary 6.2 percentage point Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase, states have been required to maintain enrollment of nearly all Medicaid enrollees. When the FMAP increase expires, states will have up to 12 months to return to normal operations.

Additionally, many other temporary authorities adopted by states during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, including Section 1135 waivers and disaster relief state plan amendments (SPAs), will need to plan for a return to regular operations across their programs. CMS has released additional tools and resources to help states.

Unwinding Guidance

- [Promoting Continuity of Coverage and Distributing Eligibility and Enrollment Requirements for Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\), and Basic Health Program \(BHP\) Upon Concluding the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) (PDF, 815.14 KB) (Posted 3/3/2022)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

CMCS Informational Bulletin

DATE: January 5, 2023

FROM: Daniel Tsai, Deputy Administrator and Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

SUBJECT: Key Dates Related to the Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Condition Provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

On Thursday, December 29, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023) was enacted. This law includes various Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provisions, including significant changes to the continuous enrollment condition at section 6008(b)(3) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that take effect April 1, 2023.¹ Under this section of the FFCRA, states claiming a temporary 6.2 percentage point increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) have been unable to terminate enrollment for most individuals enrolled in Medicaid as of March 18, 2020, as a condition of receiving the temporary FMAP increase. When this continuous enrollment condition ends, states must, over time, return to normal eligibility and enrollment operations. As described in prior Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance, states will have up to 12 months to initiate, and 14 months to complete, a renewal for all individuals enrolled in Medicaid, CHIP, and the Basic Health Program (BHP) following the end of the continuous enrollment condition—this process has commonly been referred to as “unwinding.”² The newly enacted CAA, 2023 does not address the end date of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), and as of January 2023, the PHE is still in effect; it does, however, address the end of the continuous enrollment condition, the temporary FMAP increase, and the unwinding process.

Under the CAA, 2023, expiration of the continuous enrollment condition and receipt of the temporary FMAP increase will no longer be linked to the end of the PHE. The continuous enrollment condition will end on March 31, 2023, and the FFCRA's temporary FMAP increase will be gradually reduced and phased down beginning April 1, 2023, and will end on December 31, 2023. Beginning April 1, 2023, states will be able to terminate Medicaid enrollment for individuals no longer eligible. The conditions for receiving the temporary FMAP increase listed at subsections 6008(b)(1), (2), and (4) of the FFCRA will continue to apply to states claiming the temporary FMAP increase while the FMAP increase remains available, through December 31, 2023 (although the CAA, 2023 also amends subsection 6008(b)(2), effective April 1, 2023; CMS

Strategic Approaches to Engaging Managed Care Plans to Maximize Continuity of Coverage as States Resume Normal Eligibility and Enrollment Operations

JANUARY 2023 UPDATE

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding:

A Communications Toolkit

This toolkit has important information to help inform people with Medicaid or CHIP about steps they need to take to renew their coverage.



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

Medicaid.gov
Keeping America Healthy

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Renew your Medicaid or CHIP coverage

PREPARE NOW



Get ready to renew now

Here are some things you can do to prepare for the renewal process:

- Update your contact information** - 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 coverage. This letter will 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 your state right away to help avoid a gap in your coverage.

If you no longer qualify for Medicaid or CHIP

You may be able to buy a health plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace[®], and get help paying for it. Marketplace plans are:

- 4 out of 5 enrollees can find plans that cost less than \$10 a month.
- Plans cover things like prescription drugs, doctor visits, urgent care, hospital visits, and more.

[Explore Marketplace plans and savings](#)

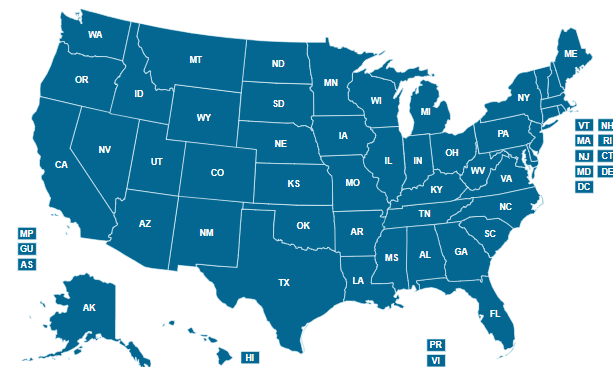
Medicaid or CHIP State Map

Select your state to get Medicaid enrollment information. You can also scroll down to find your state's contact information.

Select State

Select state

Select a State



★ STATE MEDICAID ENROLLMENT LINKS ★

Alabama

- [Enrollment](#)
- 📞 General Questions: [334-242-5000](tel:334-242-5000)

Alaska

- [Enrollment](#)
- 📞 Alaska Recipient Helpline toll free [800-780-9972](tel:800-780-9972)
- 📞 Eligibility helpline: [800-478-7778](tel:800-478-7778)

American Samoa

- 📞 Medicaid Office: [684-699-4777](tel:684-699-4777)
- 📞 Department of Public Health: [684-633-7676](tel:684-633-7676) / [684-633-4606](tel:684-633-4606)

Ending the PHE: Implications for Counties

National Association of Counties (NACo)

Alberto Gonzalez, Jr, MPP
Senior Advisor for External Engagement
Food and Nutrition Service

April 11, 2023



Impact on FNS Program Flexibilities

- Ending SNAP Emergency Allotments Nationwide*
- Phasing-out temporary student exemptions for SNAP
- Re-instating ABAWDs Time Limits
- Leveraging SNAP Administrative Adjustments and Waivers
- Phasing-out Child Nutrition Programs flexibilities
- Ending Pandemic EBT
 - Starting Summer EBT in Summer 2024!*
- Making WIC flexibilities available

*Passage of FY23 Omnibus Appropriations Bill 1) detached end of SNAP EAs from end of Federal PHE; SNAP EAs ended nationwide beginning 3/1/21 and 2) made Summer EBT permanent.



Key Takeaways and Suggested Action Steps

- Amplify and uplift the importance of FNS's Programs (incl. WIC, SNAP, School Meals)
 - Engage in the Farm Bill, President's FY23 Budget
- Promote cross-sector partnerships to reach all FNS eligible program participants
- Engage in the Federal rulemaking process (e.g., WIC online ordering, school meal nutrition standards)
- Help advance the goals of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health
- Connect with FNS Regional Offices
- Keep us posted on your work!



FNS' Role in Preparing for the End of the Federal PHE

- Ongoing technical assistance, guidance and webinars with state agencies
 - [FNS Response to COVID-19 PHE](#)
 - [Guidance](#) for States Preparing for the End of the PHE
 - End of the PHE and Impact on [Student Eligibility](#) for SNAP
- Stakeholder engagements
 - CMS Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding [Stakeholder Call](#)
 - White House Faith Based Stakeholder Call
- Amplification among target audiences
 - 250K+ retailer partners
 - 1890 Institutions
 - Faith-based and healthcare partners (incl. CBOs)
 - Social media channels (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter)
- Promoting suite of Federal nutrition programs
 - Incl. WIC and School Meals



Important Links/Resources

FNS Programs

- [Website](#) on FNS's Nutrition Assistance Programs
- [Website](#) on FNS's Response to COVID-19 PHE
- [Compilation of Guidance](#) for States Preparing for the End of the PHE

SNAP

- [Website](#) on Changes to SNAP Benefit Amounts – 2023
 - Blog ([ENG](#) and [ESP](#)), [Infographic](#), Social Media Tiles
- [Link](#) to 2/22/23 CMS Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding Stakeholder Call with FNS
- [Guidance](#) from U.S. Department of Education (ED) on the End of the PHE and Impact on Student Eligibility for SNAP

Federal rulemaking public comment opportunities

- Proposed rule to expand access to the [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\)](#) so that more children can access free school meals (5/8/23).
- Proposed rule to update [school meal nutrition standards](#) to meet the latest nutrition science (5/10/23).
- Proposed rule to [expand WIC online ordering](#) (5/24/23).

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health

- [White House Challenge](#) to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities

USDA Hunger Hotline

- 1-866-3-HUNGRY(1-866-348-6479) or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273) for Spanish

FNS Regional Offices

- [Website](#) on FNS's seven regional offices



Thank You & Stay Connected

www.usda.gov/coronavirus

 @USDANutrition

 @USDAGOV





ENDING THE PHE: IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNTIES

STRATEGIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Rick Wanne, Director, Self-Sufficiency Services





SNAP/CalFresh

- Impact and Caseload Growth During PHE
- End of Emergency Benefit Allotments
- PHE Waiver Flexibilities
- Community Impact Post PHE
- Communication, Outreach and Education to Recipients



Medicaid/Medi-Cal

- Impact and Caseload Growth During PHE
- Restarting Annual Redeterminations
- PHE Waiver Flexibilities
- Community Impact Post PHE
- Communication, Outreach and Education to Recipients



Contact Information

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Ending the PHE: Implications for Counties

Dan Makelky

Director of Human Services,
Douglas County, CO

President, National
Association of County Human
Services Administrators



How did Douglas County deal with the local impact of the end of the SNAP emergency allotments?



An outreach and communication plan began in the fall of 2022.

Social Media

County Website

Press Releases

Lobby

Co-located Staff & Nonprofits

In a county as affluent as Douglas, we saw a 30% increase in food and medical assistance.

How are you and other county human service leaders preparing staff for the unwinding?

- Implemented overtime to get as caught up as possible in anticipation of the unwind and increase in volume
- Getting tuned in to technology, process improvement, and streamlining operations
- Pay raises
- Flexibilities like a hybrid work environment and updating the dress code
- Secondary trauma training





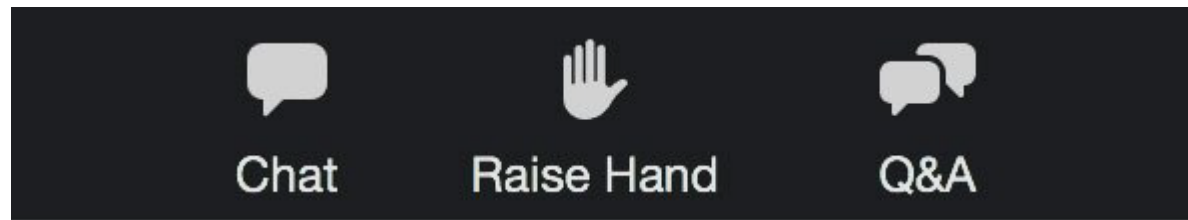
Thank you

Dan Makelky

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Audience Questions and Answers

Ask your questions using the Zoom “Q&A” feature or by emailing questions@naco.org



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Thank you for joining!

