

# COVID WEBINAR

## Medicaid and the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

January 20th, 2023 at 1:00 PM EST



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NNCC supports comprehensive, community-based primary care and public health nursing through policy and advocacy, program development and management, technical assistance and support, and direct, nurse-led healthcare services.

Learn more at [NurseLedCare.org](https://NurseLedCare.org)

# CDC COVID Vaccine Project Goals



Q: Can I get the vaccine if I don't have insurance?

A: Yes, Covid-19 vaccines are 100% free in the United States.

- Empower nurses with necessary information to engage care teams and communities about COVID-19 vaccines.
- Provide learning opportunities to share up-to-date guidance, support peer engagement among nursing colleagues, and strengthen the nursing role.
- Amplify the nursing voice by featuring nurse champions through our podcast and other media outlets.

Learn more at [NurseLedCare.org](https://NurseLedCare.org)



# Housekeeping Items

## Question & Answer

- Click Q&A and type your questions into the open field.
- The Moderator will either send a typed response or answer your questions live at the end of the presentation.

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- Please complete the evaluation survey after today's training.
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# Medicaid and the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: Impacts on Health Coverage Retention, Telehealth, and more

Shoshi Preuss

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Colorado Community Health Network

# Introduction

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- Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the primary care association for the 20 Colorado Community Health Centers (CHC).
- CHCs serve one in seven Coloradans, including 33% of Medicaid members and 22% of CHIP members.
- CCHN hosts the Covering Kids and Families project that supports over 500 enrollment professionals in the state, including at CHCs.

# Our Roles

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- Supporting CHCs
  - Preparing CHCs to outreach patients and prepare for financial strains as more patients become uninsured
- Supporting enrollment professionals at CHCs and community-based organizations through Covering Kids and Families
- Advocacy
  - Policy expertise
  - Community driven: bridge between community, enrollment professionals, CHCs, and state



# Background

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- Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) since March 2020.
  - PHE was last [renewed](#) on January 11, 2023. Biden Administration promised states 60-days notice before the PHE ends.
  - Federal law created many requirements for states to abide by during the PHE.
  - Today’s focus is on Medicaid continuous enrollment and Medicare telehealth.
- Consolidated Appropriates Act of 2023 (“Omnibus”) made changes to both issues.

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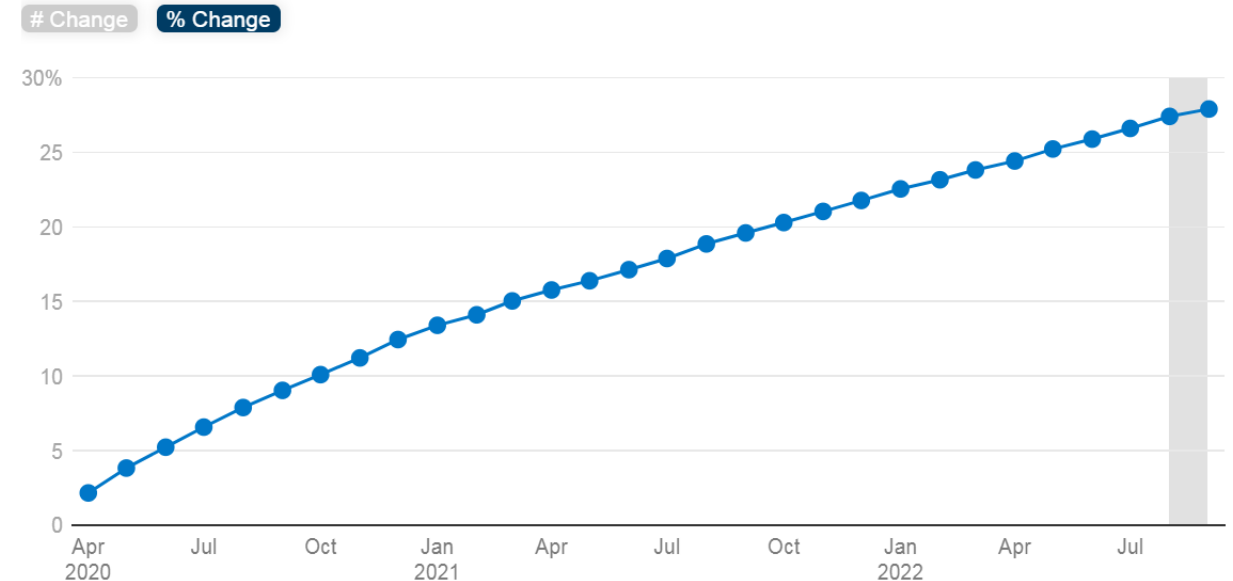
# MEDICAID CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

# Medicaid Continuous Enrollment

- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (2020) created the continuous enrollment (CE) or continuous coverage requirement:
  - During the PHE, states must keep all Medicaid members (as of March 18, 2020) enrolled in benefits with limited exceptions.
  - No disenrollments for typical reasons such as being over income or failure to respond to a request for information.
  - Along with this, states received an additional 6.2% enhanced federal match rate.
- State actions on renewals varied during this time.

## Medicaid/CHIP Enrollment, February 2020-September 2022

Cumulative Percent Change In Medicaid/CHIP Enrollment Since February 2020



NOTE: M = Millions. The shaded area represents preliminary data for September 2022, which are subject to change in subsequent enrollment reports; all other months are based on updated enrollment reports. These data differ from those reported in monthly "Medicaid & CHIP Enrollment Snapshots" published by CMS, which report preliminary data for all months. Medicaid/CHIP enrollment reports are submitted monthly by state Medicaid agencies, reflecting enrollment on the last day of the month. With each update, states often revise data for the previous month(s) to better align with reporting criteria, such as including retroactive enrollment or other criteria. February 2020 (baseline) enrollment was 71,097,415 in the updated enrollment report.

SOURCE: CMS, Medicaid & CHIP: Monthly Application and Eligibility Reports, last updated January 4, 2023. • PNG

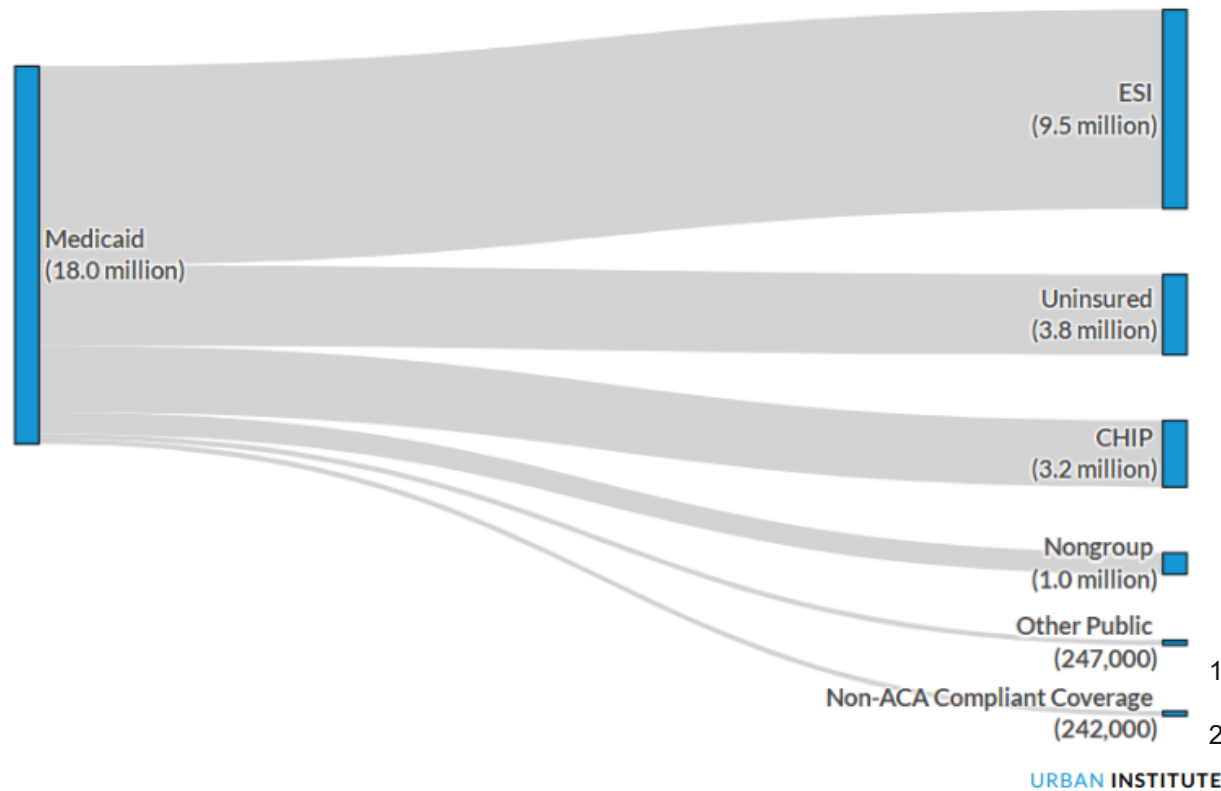
# Unwinding Continuous Enrollment

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- Previously, the CE requirement was tied to the end of the PHE. However, the Omnibus (2023) decoupled the CE from the PHE, ending CE requirements on March 31, 2023.
  - States can begin disenrollments as soon as **April 1, 2023**.
- Unwinding the Medicaid continuous coverage provision:
  - States must develop plans to unwind the CE which includes re-assessing eligibility for all members
  - 12 months to initiate renewals (some states planning for a shorter timeline), 2 additional months to finish processing renewals
  - Additional federal flexibilities for administrative relief

# Impact of Unwinding Continuous Enrollment

**FIGURE 1**  
Coverage Transitions of Medicaid Enrollees after the Public Health Emergency Expires



Source: Health Insurance Policy Simulation Model.

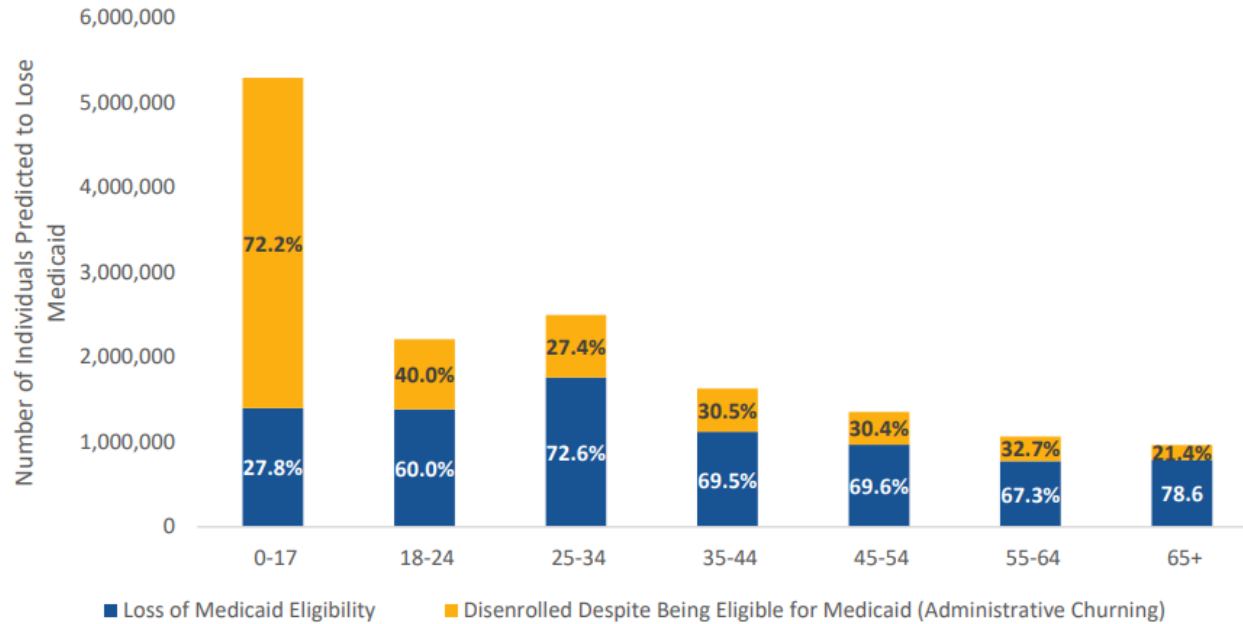
Notes: ESI = employer-sponsored insurance. CHIP = Children's Health Insurance Program. ACA = Affordable Care Act.

- Estimates of disenrollments range but are all high:
  - Between 5 and 14 million people<sup>1</sup> (KFF)
  - 18 million<sup>2</sup> (Urban Institute/RWJF)
  - 15 million (ASPE, HHS)<sup>3</sup>

1. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/10-things-to-know-about-the-unwinding-of-the-medicaid-continuous-enrollment-provision/>
2. Matthew Buettgens and Andrew Green, The Impact of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Expiration on All Types of Health Coverage, <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2022/12/the-impact-of-the-covid-19-public-health-emergency-expiration-on-all-types-of-health-coverage.html>
3. ASPE, Office of Health Policy, Unwinding the Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Provision, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/60f0ac74ee06eb578d30b0f39ac94323/aspe-end-mcaid-continuous-coverage.pdf>

# Impact of Unwinding Continuous Enrollment

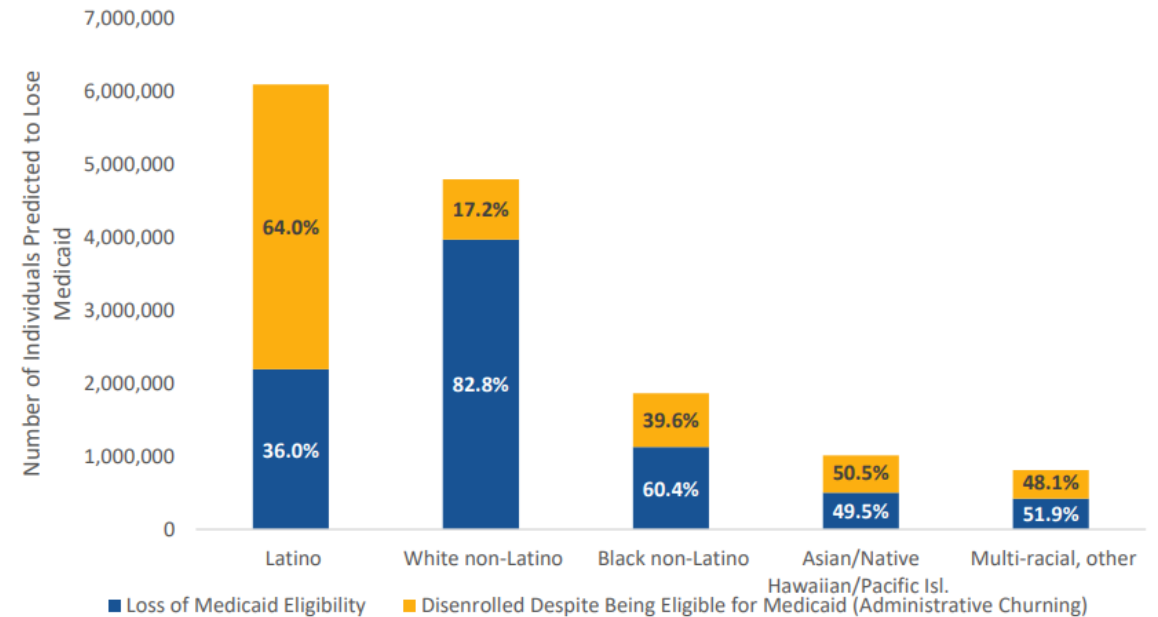
**Figure 3. Predicted Medicaid Coverage Loss Due to Eligibility Loss versus Administrative Churning, by Age**



Note: Each bar adds to 100%, showing the breakdown of predicted Medicaid coverage loss due to administrative churning versus loss of eligibility.

Source: Analysis of SIPP treating March 2015-Nov. 2016 as analogous to March 2020-Dec. 2021 PHE, among enrollees ever-enrolled in Medicaid during the 21-month period. Projections are from the Base Case scenario.

**Figure 4. Predicted Medicaid Coverage Loss Due to Eligibility Loss versus Administrative Churning, by Race and Ethnicity**



Note: Each bar adds to 100%, showing the breakdown of predicted Medicaid coverage loss due to administrative churning versus loss of eligibility.

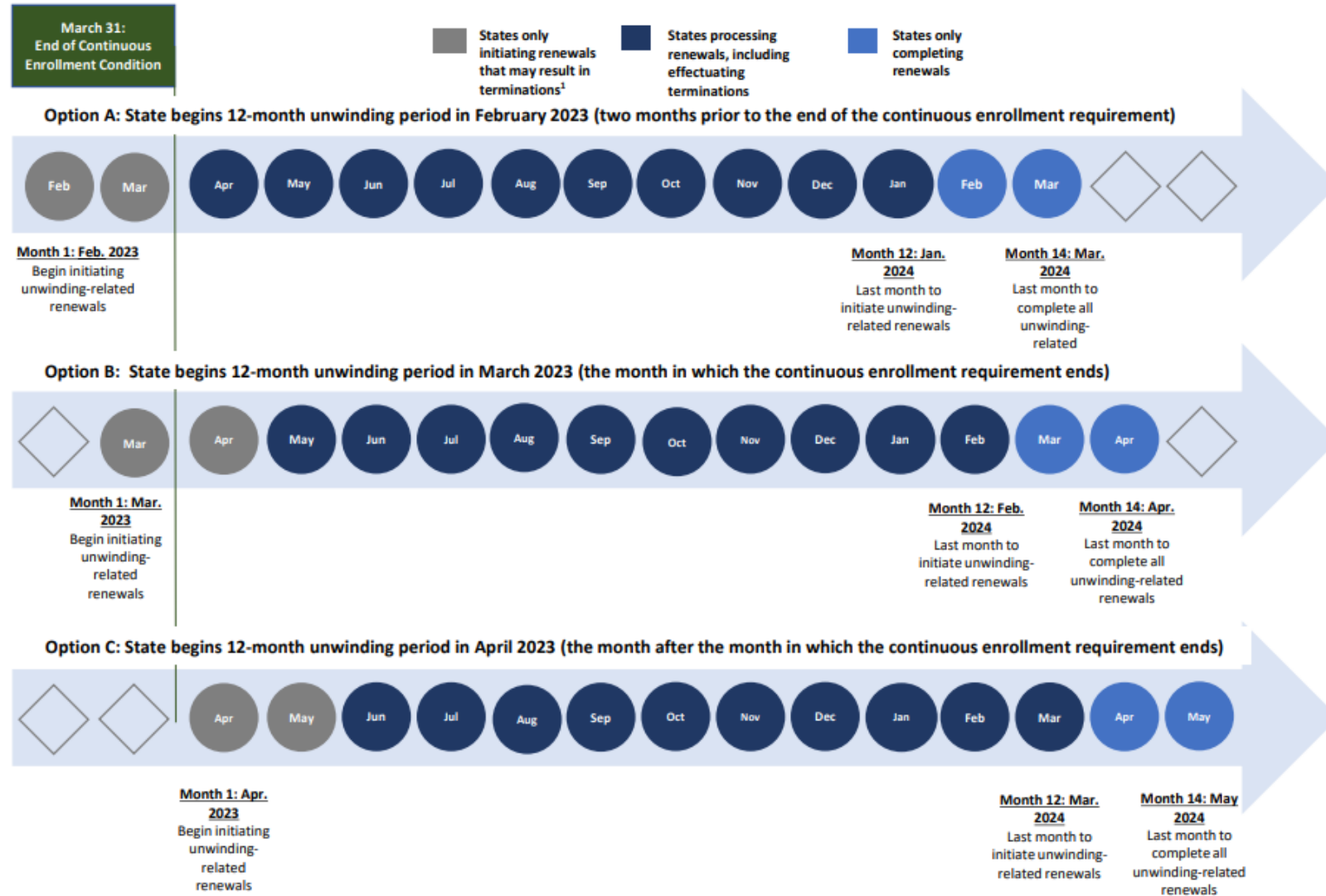
Source: Analysis of SIPP treating March 2015-Nov. 2016 as analogous to March 2020-Dec. 2021 PHE, among enrollees ever-enrolled in Medicaid during the 21-month period. Projections are from the Base Case scenario.

# State Options and Requirements

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- CMS gives states flexibility in how to unwind the CE:
  - Population-based approach: prioritize populations who are most likely to no longer be eligible
  - Time-based approach: prioritize cases based on length of time the case has been pending
  - Hybrid approach
  - State-developed approach
- States must submit a plan to CMS and report specific data

## Appendix B1 – Example 1: Unwinding Timeline for States with a 60-day Renewal Process



- For Options B and C above, states that begin their unwinding period in March or April 2023 are not prohibited from completing renewals after March 31, 2023, provided that the renewals are conducted in accordance with federal requirements at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.916 and 457.343, including requirements to provide beneficiaries sufficient time to return a renewal form and needed documentation.

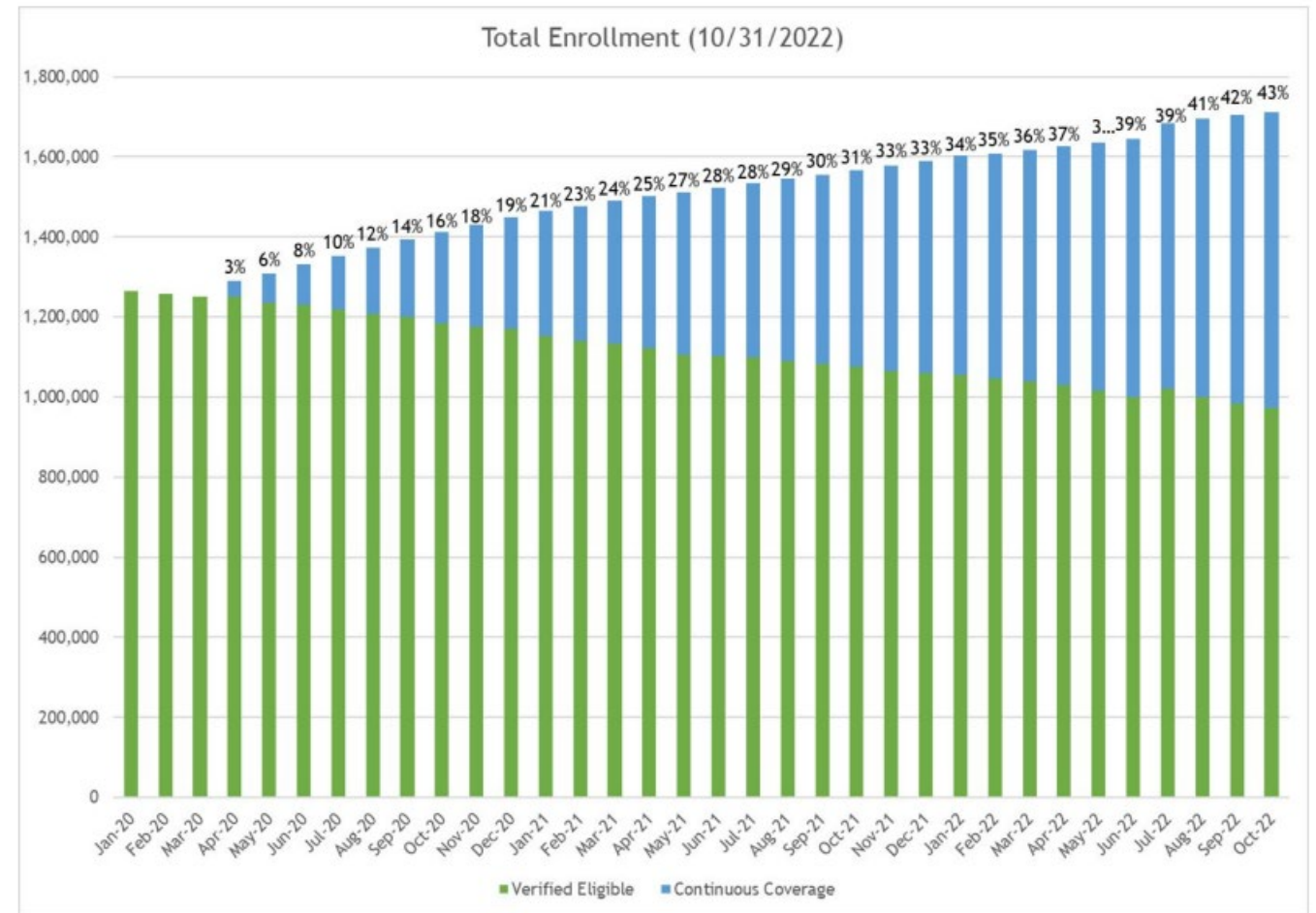


State	Public state plan or summary	Unwinding information on Medicaid or State Marketplace website	Alert to update contact information	Unwinding FAQ	Communications materials/toolkit	Unwinding data dashboard or public posting planned
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Alaska	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Delaware	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
District of Columbia	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Florida	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hawaii	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Idaho	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Illinois	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Georgetown Center for Children and Families: [50-State Unwinding Tracker](#)

# Colorado Example

- Medicaid and CHIP enrollment has risen 37% during the PHE
- 780K members were determined ineligible
  - State estimates that 315,000 members in Colorado will be disenrolled in unwind process
- Anticipated reasons for disenrollment include:
  - Failure to provide verification
  - Failure to complete renewal process
  - Whereabouts unknown (returned mail)
  - Over income for program



# Advocacy and Partnering with Medicaid Agency

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- **Advocacy Goals:** Support Coloradans in retaining health coverage they are eligible for or transitioning to new coverage.
- **Tactics:** Support Medicaid agency to decrease barriers to renewal, increase communication to members, and ensure they can reach members during the renewal process.
- **Approach:**
  - Maintaining a 20 years long relationship with eligibility staff
  - Creating feedback loop between community organizations and Medicaid agency
  - Partnering on projects like 'update your address'

# Update Your Address Campaign

Toolkit with customizable messaging to encourage members to update their address.

- Sample flyers, social media posts, emails, text messages, and website text.
  - Available in English, Spanish and 11 other most common languages
- <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/uva-campaign>

## Public Health Emergency Planning



### Preparing Members for Renewals Part 1: Update Your Address Messaging Toolkit

The purpose of this toolkit is to provide our community partners, stakeholders, and advocates with messaging and resources to encourage members of Health First Colorado and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) to update their contact information. This toolkit is particularly important to prepare members for upcoming updates to the renewal process for Health First Colorado. Part 2 of this toolkit will be available when the Department is informed of a final end date for the Public Health Emergency.

# Update Your Address Campaign



## Is your contact information up-to-date?

**Take action today** to make sure that Health First Colorado (Colorado's Health Plan *Plus* (CHP number, email, and more) that you can get letters from Health First Colorado or CHP+ covering you.

**Don't miss any important information!**

You can update your information in several ways:

- Visit [Colorado.gov](http://Colorado.gov).
- Use the [Health First Colorado app](#). This free app is for members.
- **Optional/customizable text if your organization provides enrollment assistance:** Visit [\[insert organization website\]](#) for [\[insert phone number\]](#) for enrollment assistance.
- CHP+ members can call the Health First Colorado Relay: [711](#).
- Contact your [county health department](#).

## ¿Está actualizada su información de contacto?

**Actúe hoy** para asegurarse de que Health First Colorado (Programa de Medicaid de Colorado) y Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) tengan la información actual de su número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección postal. Es importante que pueda recibir cartas sobre su cobertura de Health First Colorado o CHP+.

**No se pierda ninguna actualización importante.**

Puede actualizar su información de una de estas maneras:

- Visite [Colorado.gov/PEAK](http://Colorado.gov/PEAK).
- Use la [aplicación de Health First Colorado](#) en su teléfono. Esta aplicación gratuita es para miembros de Health First Colorado y CHP+.
- **Optional/customizable text if your organization provides enrollment assistance:** Visite [\[insert organization website\]](#) o llame [\[insert phone number\]](#) para pedir ayuda o para hacer una cita.
- Los miembros de CHP+ pueden llamar al 1-800-359-1991 (retransmisión estatal: [711](#)).
- Contacte al [departamento de servicios humanos de su condado](#).



## هل معلومات الاتصال بك محدثة؟

بإسرع اليوم واحرص على توفير رقم هاتفك الحالي وبريدك الإلكتروني المحدث لدى برنامج Health First Colorado (برنامج CHP+) وخطه Child Health Plan (CHP+). الحصول على المعلومات المهمة بشأن تغطية برنامج Health First Colorado أو خطه CHP+.

لا تفوت أي تحديثات مهمة.

ويمكنك تحديث معلوماتك بإحدى الطرق التالية:

- زياره [الرابط التالي Colorado.gov/PEAK](http://Colorado.gov/PEAK).
- استخدام تطبيق الهاتف الذكي [Health First Colorado app](#).
- النص اختياري / قابل للتخصيص إذا كانت مؤسستك توفر المم برزياره موقعنا الإلكتروني [\[أدخل موقع المؤسسة\]](#) أو اتصل عا [\[مؤسسة\]](#) للمساعدة أو تحديد موعد.
- يمكن لأعضاء خطه CHP+ الاتصال بالرقم 1-800-359-1991.
- الاتصال بإدارة الخدمات الإنسانية في مقاطعتك [\[711\]](#).

## ¿Está actualizada su información de contacto?



**Tómese un momento hoy para asegurarse de que Health First Colorado (Programa de Medicaid de Colorado) o Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) tengan en sus registros la información correcta de su dirección postal, número de teléfono y correo electrónico.**

## Is your contact information up to date?



**Take a moment today to make sure that Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) or Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) has the correct mailing address, phone numbers, and email address on file for you.**



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

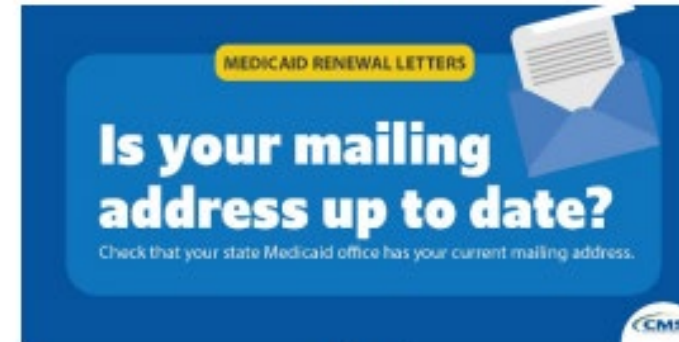
## Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding:

### 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.



#### Graphic



option 1



option 2

CMS, [Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding: Communications Toolkit](#)

# Messages for the Community

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- Keep your address and other contact information up to date
- Open and read all mail
- Sign and return renewal paperwork and report other changes in your household (ex. income changes, birth of a child)
- People who lose Medicaid or CHIP may be eligible for subsidies through the federal marketplace
- Experts are available to help with Medicaid and CHIP renewals or any questions about coverage, letters, etc.

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# MEDICARE TELEHEALTH



# Medicare Telehealth

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- Through end of 2024, expanded Medicare telehealth :
  - Allow telehealth for medical visits regardless of originating site
  - Allow audio-only telehealth services
  - Expand eligible providers to include occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech-language pathologist and audiologist
  - Delay requirement for patients to have an in-person visit within 6 months of first telehealth behavioral health visits
    - Medicare coverage for telehealth behavioral health visits was permanently expanded

# Additional Resources

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- Medicaid.gov, [Unwinding and Returning to Regular Operations After COVID-19](#)
  - [Communications Toolkit](#)
- Georgetown Center for Children and Families:
  - [50-State Unwinding Tracker](#)
  - [Webinar Series: Unwinding the COVID-19 Medicaid Continuous Eligible Provision](#)
- Kaiser Family Foundation:
  - [10 Things to Know About the Unwinding of the Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Provision](#)
  - [FAQs on Medicare Coverage for Telehealth](#)
- National Health Law Program, [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PHE\) Unwinding Resources](#)

# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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Thank you!

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# Q&A



*Upcoming Webinar*

# Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum: Long COVID

January 27, 2023 at 2:00 PM EST



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*Nurse-Led Forum for Vaccine Confidence*

# Nurse Well-being and Burnout: 2-Part Learning Collaborative Series

February 9th & February 23rd at 1:00 PM EST



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*Webinar Series*

# SDOH Screening & Referrals to Support Diabetes Control

Begins January 18, 2023 at 2:00 PM EST



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*Webinar*

# The Role of Community Health Workers in Breast Cancer Screening Equity

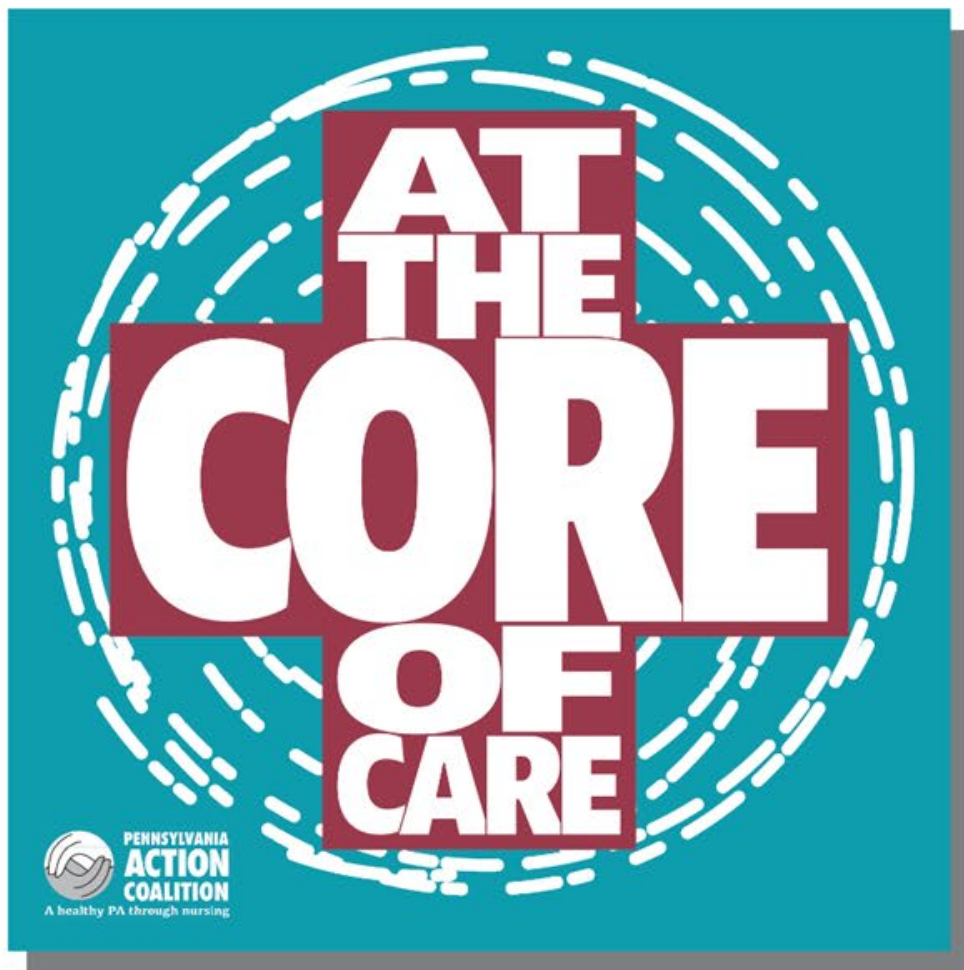
February 8, 2023 at 2:00 PM EST



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