

Resuming Regular Medicaid Eligibility Operations

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicaid programs employed “continuous enrollment” at federal direction. As a condition of receiving enhanced federal funding, AHCCCS could not take any negative actions during a member's annual renewal of eligibility. No one who was enrolled in Medicaid during this time lost their Medicaid coverage (unless they moved out of state, voluntarily disenrolled, aged out of KidsCare, or passed away). Medicaid enrollment has increased by 33% in Arizona since the start of the pandemic.

Due to federal legislation passed in December 2022, the continuous enrollment requirement is no longer tied to the public health emergency end date, and Medicaid programs are required to begin the disenrollment process starting April 1, 2023.

Coverage Impacts

An estimated **600,000 members** are at risk of losing Medicaid and KidsCare coverage in Arizona:



Approximately half of these individuals could lose coverage for failing to respond to requests from AHCCCS for information to determine eligibility.

Approximately half of these individuals could lose coverage because they are no longer eligible for Medicaid or KidsCare.



Renewal Plan & Monitoring Progress

AHCCCS will re-determine **all** members, over 12 months, using a hybrid approach of “ineligible” before “non-responsive,” oldest application date to newest, and will align households when possible.

AHCCCS and its contracted health plans will closely monitor the renewal progress during the 12 months and:

1. Share renewal update files, and
2. Communicate publicly about how to connect individuals to coverage.

Agency Efforts to Ensure Successful Continuous Coverage

- ✓ Reducing employee vacancy time-to-fill,
- ✓ Recruiting eligibility staff when vacancies occur,
- ✓ Training existing and new staff on updated systems and processes, and
- ✓ Updating health plans regularly, creating communication toolkits, and educating stakeholder in community meetings.

Budget Impacts

Resuming normal eligibility operations will impact Arizona's Medicaid budget.

AHCCCS expects a 0.7% increase driven by the expectation that lower cost members will disenroll during Contract Year 2023 which causes an increase in the average cost profile for Medicaid members.

What Can Medicaid Members Do To Ensure Continuous Coverage?

1. Update your contact information in www.healtharizonaplus.gov.
2. Check your mailbox for renewal information.
3. Respond to AHCCCS to complete your renewal.
4. If you need health insurance, call 2-1-1 or go to www.211.org.

Partners Are the Key to Success!

PLANS

Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Managed Care Organizations

PROVIDERS

2-1-1
Arizona Coalition for Military Families
Children's Action Alliance
Vitalyst Health Foundation
Federal and State policymakers

COMMUNITY

Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers
Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
Arizona Medical Association
Health Systems Alliance of Arizona