

OMENHEART











CYSTIC FIBROSIS

**FOUNDATION®** 



NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Society









Pulmonary Hypertension Association











Empowered by hope

















FOUNDATION OF AMERICA









**Immune** 

Deficiency

Foundation















# Protecting Patients' Access to Care as the Medicaid Continuous Coverage **Requirements End**

In March 2020, Congress passed healthcare protections that prevented people from losing their Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting April 1, 2023, states can resume Medicaid disenrollments. Our country has made significant progress in increasing access to coverage over the past three years and it is critical that we do not reverse that progress in the months ahead. Our organizations support the following federal and state policies that ensure those who remain eligible for Medicaid and CHIP understand this process and successfully reenroll, while those who are no longer eligible transition to other forms of quality, affordable healthcare coverage.

#### **Public Education**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and states should make robust investments in consumer education about this process. These efforts should focus on communities most at risk of losing coverage, including people of color, people with limited English proficiency, and people with limited computer/internet access.

#### **Streamline the Renewal Process**

States should maximize ex parte renewals (relying on electronic data sources to automatically renew coverage when possible). States should ensure that individuals experience a smooth renewal process whether renewing in person, by mail, online and over the phone, and that they have adequate staffing levels to accommodate the volume of renewals.

## **Coverage Transitions**

States with their own marketplaces should adopt the same 16-month Special Enrollment Period available to Healthcare.gov enrollees, allowing individuals who attest to having lost Medicaid or CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023 and July 21, 2024 to enroll in an exchange plan at any time during that same period.

### **Transparency**

States should post their unwinding plans and make data on renewals, terminations and call center statistics publicly available at the same time they send this information to CMS. CMS should publicly release data shared by states no more than 30 days after receipt.

#### **Oversight & Accountability**

States should take their time with this process (CMS recommends that states do not process more than 1/9 of their caseload per month) and commit now to pausing coverage terminations if procedural disenrollment rates are high, a clear sign that individuals who are likely still eligible for Medicaid are losing coverage. Additionally, CMS should fully use its authorities from Congress under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 to ensure that states comply with all federal requirements related to eligibility redeterminations and unwinding reporting requirements.

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association American Kidney Fund American Lung Association American Liver Foundation Arthritis Foundation

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

**Autism Speaks** 

**Cancer Support Community** 

CancerCare

Chronic Disease Coalition Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Epilepsy Foundation Epilepsy Foundation

Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research Hemophilia Federation of America Immune Deficiency Foundation Lupus Foundation of America Lutheran Services in America March of Dimes Mended Little Hearts

Muscular Dystrophy Association National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

National Eczema Association
National Health Council

National Hemophilia Foundation National Kidney Foundation National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Organization for Rare Disorders National Patient Advocate Foundation

**National Psoriasis Foundation** 

Pulmonary Hypertension Association

Susan G. Komen The AIDS Institute

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Volunteers of America

WomenHeart