



HANDS OFF OUR HEALTHCARE

Keeping Families Covered

MEDICAID CIVIL RIGHTS SCORECARD
RESOURCE AND ACTIVATION GUIDE

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A signature program of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation

OVERVIEW

What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is the single largest source of health coverage in the United States. It provides health coverage to over 92 million Americans including eligible low-income adults, pregnant women, children, elderly adults and people living with disabilities. Over half of children in the US receive their health insurance through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program. Although the Federal government establishes certain parameters for all states to follow, each state administers their Medicaid program differently, resulting in variations in Medicaid coverage across the country. Medicaid represents a large share of most states' budgets and is jointly funded by states and the federal government.

What happened to Medicaid during the COVID-19 pandemic?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that included a significant increase in federal funding for the Medicaid and CHIP programs. States were required to adhere to specific provisions to receive the funding.

The most important provision prohibited states from disenrolling anyone involuntarily who was enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP on or after March 18, 2020. This provision is known as Medicaid Continuous Enrollment.

During this period, the nation's uninsured rate declined to a historic low of 8.0% in the first quarter of 2022. It is estimated that enrollment in Medicaid/CHIP will have grown by 23.3 million to have reached nearly 92 million people from the period February 2020 to March 31, 2023. There is clear evidence that the Medicaid Continuous Enrollment requirement was a vitally important policy tool to avoid increases in the number of uninsured people during the pandemic.

The Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Period ended on March 31, 2023 and on April 1, 2023, states were able to begin the process of removing Medicaid beneficiaries from the rolls.

States are directly responsible for eligibility redeterminations. Checking eligibility for 92 million people—including more than half of the children in the US—is a hugely consequential and unprecedented happening.



THE CRISIS

Where are we now?

We are in a civil rights and health equity crisis.

Termination rates are extremely high—far outpacing pre-Medicaid disenrollment projections. As of October 2023, 6 months after the end of the Public Health Emergency, more than **10 million** people have lost Medicaid coverage.

- **71% of all people disenrolled** had their coverage terminated for “red tape” or procedural reasons like missing paperwork or system errors. Many of those disenrolled may still be eligible for coverage.
- At least **54% of those terminated** from Medicaid are from communities of color.
- **Over 2 million children**, across 20 reporting states, are included in this staggering figure.

Essentially, the Medicaid redetermination process is going terribly; and administrative burdens are top among the key drivers of high termination rates. Unprecedented Medicaid terminations, focused on Black and Brown communities, are deepening already existing inequities.

Though there are some states that have temporarily paused all procedural terminations to address problems in the renewal process, it is now imperative that ALL states stop procedural terminations and allow the necessary time needed to conduct redeterminations for everyone eligible for continued coverage.

Eligible people should not lose coverage because the Medicaid enrollment system needs to be fixed. As community advocates, we must demand that our policy leaders reset the Medicaid enrollment process.

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MESSAGING TALKING POINTS

Medicaid is one of the major pathways that ensures that all people have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare coverage.

- Healthcare is a fundamental right that should be accessible and affordable to everyone, regardless of their background.
- Access to healthcare is a right to all citizens of this country, which we must preserve.

Unfortunately, millions of people living in one of the richest countries in the world still don't have sufficient healthcare coverage or access to an affordable healthcare plan.

- The end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency left millions without the healthcare safety net they need to protect their health and well-being.
- It is our responsibility to fight for everyone have access to affordable healthcare coverage.

Failure to expand Medicaid and address coverage gaps is disproportionately harming people of color, further exacerbating existing health disparities.

- This inaction has led to an equity crisis, where communities of color - specifically Black and Brown people - bear the brunt of healthcare disparities.
- More than half of those who have lost their Medicaid coverage thus far are people of color.

We urge policymakers to immediately pause all procedural Medicaid disenrollments.

- No one who is eligible for Medicaid should lose coverage because of red-tape and process.
- This will ensure that individuals who need Medicaid coverage are not left without a lifeline to healthcare.

All states, including the District of Columbia, need to establish an automated renewals system and process moving forward to eliminate high rates of procedural disenrollment.

- This will streamline the administrative process, reduce errors, and ensure continuity of care for Medicaid recipients.

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CALL TO ACTION

Advocate to **KEEP OUR FAMILIES COVERED**
in these 3 simple ways:

1

Urge your Governor to PAUSE all procedural Medicaid disenrollments and **FIX** the broken enrollment system.

2

Download the scorecard of your state and post to social media, around the barbershop, and on the church bulletin board.

3

Have you or a loved one lost Medicaid coverage since unwinding began? Tell us your story.

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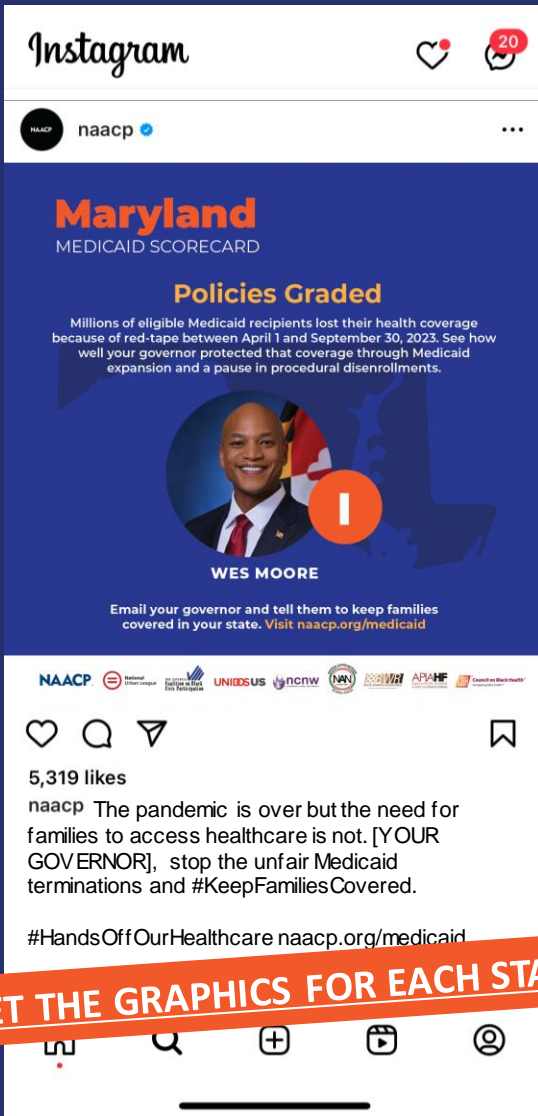
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SOCIAL MEDIA KIT

SUGGESTED SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS:



Sample Post #1

The pandemic is over but the need for families to access healthcare is not. [YOUR GOVERNOR], stop the unfair Medicaid terminations and #KeepFamiliesCovered. #HandsOffOurHealthcare naacp.org/medicaid

Sample Post #2

When it comes to protecting our access to healthcare, [YOUR GOVERNOR] has a [GRADE]. That's unacceptable. Governor, work to improve your grade by fixing the Medicaid enrollment system. #MedicaidScorecard naacp.org/medicaid

Sample Post #3

An unanswered email shouldn't be the reason someone loses the healthcare they need and are eligible for. [YOUR GOVERNOR], #KeepFamiliesCovered. Fix our Medicaid enrollment process. #MedicaidScorecard naacp.org/medicaid

HASHTAGS:

#HandsOffOurHealthcare
#MedicaidScorecard

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