



Coalition Update: Unwinding AHCCCS Continuous Eligibility

What's in A Name

When the end of continuous Medicaid enrollment was first discussed, someone, somewhere tagged it as “Unwinding”. Now that we are well into the processes, we need to consider what makes sense to consumers and people who are not “insiders”. We are now seeing language from other states and organizations evolve. The Return to Normal Renewal Process is being used by many to clarify what's happening...not all 2.5 million AHCCCS members have to renew at once. Still, after 3 years, we have a big lift, by any name.

Results

AHCCCS has stated their dashboard will be launched [here](#) on May 10. The dashboard information will be discussed during our May 22 coalition meeting. We will be requesting your feedback and questions once it becomes available. Some state dashboards for the return to normal renewals are here: [Iowa](#), [Minnesota](#), [Oregon](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Utah](#), [Washington](#).

Outreach Ideas

School may be winding down, but parents and students still have needs. Across AZ there will be many summer feeding locations to assist children with nutritional needs. We encourage your organization to contact your local summer feeding programs and partner with them to disseminate information on the return to normal renewal process. Families who need nutrition assistance are likely to be AHCCCS/KidsCare members. A complete list of AZ summer feeding sites is not yet available. We will let you know when it is posted by AZ Dept. of Education and/or AZ Food Bank Network. And local food pantries or foodbanks also present opportunities to assist consumers with AHCCCS questions. Let us know if you are working with your local summer feeding program, what works, what doesn't.

Return to Normal Renewal Essentials

Here are the four most important things to know:

1. On April 1, AHCCCS resumed the regular process to verify eligibility for all members. Most will keep their coverage, but many Arizonans are at risk of losing coverage if they don't take action.
2. AHCCCS members should keep an eye out for notices from AHCCCS and the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). This includes mail, email, phone calls and text messages.
3. AHCCCS members should ensure their information is updated on www.healtharizonaplus.gov.
4. If Arizonans have questions about low-cost health insurance options, they can schedule an appointment with an assister through www.coveraz.org or by calling 211

See the full Capitol Times Op-Ed from Suzanne Pfister, President and CEO of Vitalyst Health Foundation here:

<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2023/05/02/unwinding-the-pandemic-without-unwinding-coverage/>

Dual-Eligible (AHCCCS and Medicare) Consumers

Low-income seniors and some younger people with disabilities qualify for both AHCCCS and Medicare. Some dual eligible AHCCCS members may no longer remain eligible for AHCCCS. Unfortunately, Medicare does not cover all the same benefits as Medicaid. Faced with the loss of AHCCCS, these seniors may need help understanding their Medicare choices. Additionally, consumers may not be enrolled in Medicare and Marketplace plans, so shopping in the Marketplace and qualifying for financial assistance is not an option. Fortunately, SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) volunteers are trained and available to help navigate and understand traditional Medicare, Medicare Supplements, and Medicare Advantage. Call 1-800-432-4040.
