

TSGAC Medicaid Unwinding Guide



1. What is Medicaid Unwinding? (Background, Relevant Legislation and Regulations)

In March 2020, Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), P.L. 116-172. Section 6008 of the FFCRA provided a temporary increase in the federal match that state Medicaid programs would receive, but it required states meet certain conditions.

One of the conditions States had to meet was to keep all Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled in the Medicaid program through the end of the Public Health Emergency. This meant States stopped conducting annual Medicaid eligibility redeterminations.

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, Congress required States to start conducting Medicaid eligibility redeterminations earlier this year. States were allowed to begin disenrolling Medicaid beneficiaries on April 1, 2023 and are required to complete disenrolling ineligible Medicaid beneficiaries by April 30, 2024.¹

The unwinding process is resulting in many people getting disenrolled from Medicaid. Reports indicate that over 5 million people have already lost their Medicaid coverage as of August 2023, and that includes many AI/ANs. Many have lost their coverage not because they are no longer enrolled, but because they did not meet some procedural requirement like responding to an email or letter in a timely matter. *More [here](#).*

- a. **How does this affect our Tribe?** States are in the process of sending out letters to current beneficiaries to request verification of personal information in order to perform the required eligibility redeterminations. It is important that beneficiaries respond to these requests for information in a timely manner.
- b. **What steps should our Tribe take?** Tribal Health programs should work with their states and their patients to ensure that beneficiaries respond to requests for information from state Medicaid plans.

Tribal Call to Action!

Tribes are facing threats of Medicaid Disenrollment and states are arbitrarily kicking millions of kids off Medicaid for technical reasons and not because they are not eligible anymore.

We need your help. Please provide us with some input on what is happening in your state.

Click here: [Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee ACA/IHCIA: BROADCAST - Medicaid Unwinding Survey \(constantcontact.com\)](#)

The information gathered will assist the TSGAC to coordinate with Self-Governance Tribes in their respective states and identify gaps in Medicaid disenrollments.

¹ CMCS Informational Bulletin, *Key Dates Related to the Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Condition Provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023* (Jan. 5, 2023) <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib010523.pdf>.

2. What is happening at each State?

[Medicaid Enrollment and Unwinding Tracker – State Enrollment and Unwinding Data | KFF](#)

3. Where can we get Technical Assistance?

Toolkits are an invaluable resource that teaches users about Unwinding and identifies approaches for addressing potential issues.

- CMS has produced a [Medicaid Unwinding Toolkit](#), which includes tribal specific graphics to help us get the word out to Tribal communities.
- National Indian Health Board (NIHB), in collaboration with the Indian Health Service (IHS), has created a [Medicaid Unwinding Toolkit for Tribal Enrollment Assisters](#).
- The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) recently released a [Medicaid unwinding toolkit for Urban Indian Organizations \(UIOs\)](#).

4. For More Information:

- a. Participate in the Tribal/CMS Medicaid Unwinding Subcommittee; email: Yvonne Myers ymyers@potawatomi.org
- b. See CMS Unwinding Website: [AIAN-Unwinding | CMS](#)

5. Submit a question [here](#).

