

# Briefing on Changes to District Medicaid Program and the start of Medicaid Renewals

March 6, 2023



# Presentation Overview

- Medicaid Basics
- Background on Medicaid Renewals
- Using District Direct
- The District's Stakeholder Toolkit
- Key Messages for Beneficiaries and Stakeholders
- Communication and Notices on Medicaid Renewal
- Next Steps



## Medicaid Basics



- Medicaid is a joint federal/state health insurance program that provides health care coverage to low-income and/or disabled individuals and families.
- Medicaid covers many services, including doctor visits, hospital care, prescriptions, mental health services, transportation and many other services.
- To be eligible for the Medicaid in the District, you must be District resident and meet non-financial and financial eligibility requirements.
- There are two primary eligibility groupings Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) and non-MAGI:
  - MAGI Groups 1) Adults with dependent children (21-64), 2) pregnant individuals, 3) parents/caretaker relatives 4) children/youth 0-20.
  - Non-MAGI Groups 1) Aged (65+. Blind, Disabled), SSI recipients, people seeking help with paying for Medicare Premiums called Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries, Long Term Care Services and Supports ( Home and Community Based Supports (HCBS), Nursing facility care).



# Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Federal Poverty Limits (FPL)



<b>Adults without Dependent Children (Childless Adults) 2023 FPL</b>	
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 210% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)</i>	
Category	Adults Without Dependent Children
Threshold in FPL	210% + 5% disregard*
1 person household, monthly	\$2,612
2 person household, monthly	\$3,533
3 person household, monthly	\$4,454
4 person household, monthly	\$5,375
5 person household, monthly	\$6,296
6 person household, monthly	\$7,217
7 person household, monthly	\$8,138
8 person household, monthly	\$9,059
Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	

<b>Parent Caretaker 2023 FPL</b>	
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 216% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)</i>	
Category	Parent/Caretaker/Relative
Threshold in FPL	216% + 5% disregard
1 person household, monthly	\$2,685
2 person household, monthly	\$3,632
3 person household, monthly	\$4,578
4 person household, monthly	\$5,525
5 person household, monthly	\$6,472
6 person household, monthly	\$7,418
7 person household, monthly	\$8,365
8 person household, monthly	\$9,311
Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	





# Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Federal Poverty Limits (FPL)



Infants and Children 2023 FPL		
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 319% and 216% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)</i>		
Category	Children (0-18), 319%	Children (19-20), 216%
Threshold in FPL	319% + 5% disregard*	216% + 5% disregard*
1 person household, monthly	\$3,937	\$2,685
2 person household, monthly	\$5,324	\$3,632
3 person household, monthly	\$6,712	\$4,578
4 person household, monthly	\$8,100	\$5,525
5 person household, monthly	\$9,488	\$6,472
6 person household, monthly	\$10,876	\$7,418
7 person household, monthly	\$12,263	\$8,365
8 person household, monthly	\$13,651	\$9,311
Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services		

Pregnant 2023 FPL	
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 319% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)</i>	
Category	Pregnant Individual
Threshold in FPL	319% + 5% disregard
2 person household, monthly	\$5,324
3 person household, monthly	\$6,712
4 person household, monthly	\$8,100
5 person household, monthly	\$9,488
6 person household, monthly	\$10,876
7 person household, monthly	\$12,263
8 person household, monthly	\$13,651
Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	



## Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Federal Poverty Limits (FPL)



Alliance 2023 FPL	
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 210% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)</i>	
Category	DC Health Care Alliance Program
Threshold in FPL	210% + 5% disregard*
1 person household, monthly	\$2,612
2 person household, monthly	\$3,533
3 person household, monthly	\$4,454
4 person household, monthly	\$5,375
5 person household, monthly	\$6,296
6 person household, monthly	\$7,217
7 person household, monthly	\$8,138
8 person household, monthly	\$9,059
Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	

Immigrant Children's Program (ICP) 2023 FPL		
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 319% and 216% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)</i>		
Category	Children (0-18), 319%	Children (19-20), 216%
Threshold in FPL	319% + 5% disregard*	216% + 5% disregard*
1 person household, monthly	\$3,937	\$2,685
2 person household, monthly	\$5,324	\$3,632
3 person household, monthly	\$6,712	\$4,578
4 person household, monthly	\$8,100	\$5,525
5 person household, monthly	\$9,488	\$6,472
6 person household, monthly	\$10,876	\$7,418
7 person household, monthly	\$12,263	\$8,365
8 person household, monthly	\$13,651	\$9,311
Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services		



# Non- Modified Adjusted Gross Income (Non-MAGI) Federal Poverty Limits (FPL)



Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD Group) 2023 FPL	
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 100% of the FPL</i>	
Category	Aged, Blind, or Disabled
Threshold in FPL	100%
1 person household, monthly	\$1,215
2 person household, monthly	\$1,643

QMB 2023 FPL	
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 300% of the FPL (with an additional \$20 for QMB Plus)</i>	
Category	QMB
Threshold in FPL	300% + \$20
1 person household, monthly	\$3,665
2 person household, monthly	\$4,950







# Non- Modified Adjusted Gross Income (Non-MAGI) Long Term Care & Support Services (LTCSS) Federal Poverty Limits (FPL)



Long Term Care 2023 FPL					
Covered Group	Who is included	income Limits	Assets Limits	Eligibility Period	Benefits
Supplemental Security income (SSI)	Individuals receiving or eligible for SSI	Categorically Eligible- No income limits	Categorically Eligible- No asset limit	One Year	Full Medicaid benefits
Special income Standard (SIS)	Individuals who are ineligible for SSI because their income is too high	300% of the SSI federal benefit rate (\$2742 in 2023)	\$4000 for one person, \$6000 for a married couple	One Year	Medicaid coverage of long-term care services
Spend-Down	Individuals who are ineligible for long term care services under the SIS because their income is too <u>high</u> and they have high medical expenses	Medically Needy income (MNIL) (\$780.58 for individual and \$ 821.67 for married couples in 2023). Individuals qualifying by deducting medical expenses from their gross countable income	\$4000 for one person, \$6000 for a married couple	Six Months. Once the individual meets spend-down obligation for the six month period, he or she will automatically be enrolled in Medicaid from the 1st day of the month in which the individual meets the spend-down obligation through the rest of the six month period. At the end of the six month period, the individual must file a new application for Medicaid to re-determine their eligibility and/or spend-down obligation for the next six month period	Full Medicaid benefits after the spend-down obligation is met







# The Medicaid Program provides comprehensive Health Care Coverage to Thousands of District Residents



- In March 2020, CMS temporarily waived the need to renew Medicaid coverage and states.
- Medicaid enrollment has increased ~20% since March 2020 –just over 300,000 District residents are now enrolled in Medicaid.
- At the end of 2022, Congress passed legislation ending the continuous eligibility requirement on March 31, 2023.
- The District will be required to restart Medicaid eligibility **renewals beginning April 1, 2023.**
- Many beneficiaries don't have updated or relevant contact information available to the agency responsible for determination eligibility which is Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF).
- DHCF is required to contact people via mail to renew their coverage –but if our address on file is outdated, it creates a challenge.



# Using District Direct to Renew Coverage



- Eligibility for Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF have now moved to District Direct <https://districtdirect.dc.gov/ua/>.  
The District integrated eligibility system
- DHCF expects approximately 186,000 people (77% of MAGI beneficiaries) to passively renew, meaning no action by the beneficiary is needed to keep coverage.
- Applications through District Direct require more upfront information, so beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicaid through disability or age-related reasons (non-MAGI) will have to complete a renewal form (approx. 46,000 people).
- District Direct allows beneficiaries to change their address, update their contact information, and even apply for/renew their coverage online.
- Our messaging will lead people to try District Direct first. We know some people won't be able to navigate the online system, so we'll have a call center and in person renewal options, as well.



# Stakeholder Toolkit to Assist Stakeholders with Messaging and Further Details



- DHCF's website <https://dhcf.dc.gov/> will have a **Stakeholder Toolkit** on Medicaid Renewals published on 3/7.
- The **Stakeholder Toolkit** contains:
  - Background
  - Key Messages
  - Downloadable fliers
  - Draft social media posts and messaging
  - Drop In Article to put in your agency newsletter or bulletin board
  - Email and Website Text
  - Phone Call Scripts including information on District Direct registration
  - FAQs



# Key Messaging for Beneficiaries: Don't Wait to Update! Then Check Mail for Important Information!



## What Beneficiaries Can Do Right Now

- Don't Wait to Update!: Update your contact information by logging into District Direct. If DHCF does not have the proper contact information, you will not receive notice of the need to renew your coverage through the mail or other means!
- Check Your Mail: DHCF will mail you a letter about your Medicaid, Alliance, or ICP coverage. This letter will also let you know when it's time to complete your renewal.

## What To Do After Receiving Your Renewal Notice

- Complete your renewal by using [districtdirect.dc.gov](https://districtdirect.dc.gov) or fill out the form and mail/fax/drop at Service Center immediately to help avoid a gap in your coverage.



# Ways to Assist with Outreach and Beneficiary Engagement



1. Share our materials on your website, social media, centers, and at community meetings.
2. Encourage beneficiaries to update their information and support people who have difficulty creating an account or accessing [districtdirect.dc.gov](https://districtdirect.dc.gov) to ensure that they receive the necessary paperwork.
3. Train existing staff to assist beneficiaries with the renewal process, including completing and submitting all forms and required documents to avoid a break in coverage.
4. Identify individuals in your existing system, coalitions, or networks who may be at risk for not renewing their coverage and encourage them to access and use our resources.
5. Assist individuals who lost eligibility due to non-submission of renewal forms to promptly begin the reinstatement process –there is a 90-day reinstatement period.



# Communication on Medicaid Renewal– Outreach to Beneficiaries

- DHCF will send Renewal Packets to beneficiaries who cannot passively renew coverage.
- The District may text the cell numbers of beneficiaries to ask beneficiaries to update their address and/or complete their renewal packet.
- The District may conduct automated phone calls to ask beneficiaries to update their contact information and/or complete their renewal packet.
  - This was determined to be legal by the FCC in January 2023
- DHCF will host pop up events. Let us know which of your meetings, events, and programs we can join!
- DHCF is staffing up our call center to be able to field questions and concerns. The center can also update addresses for beneficiaries.



# Communication on Medicaid Renewal–External Outreach



- The District wants to join meetings of key stakeholders to explain Medicaid Renewal
  - DHCF staff would attend meetings hosted by your agency -or that your agency knows about –*send invites to us via email at [Medicaid.restart@dc.gov](mailto:Medicaid.restart@dc.gov).*
- The District will provide a Stakeholder Toolkit to guide public outreach from stakeholders (draft social media, etc.), walk through the District Direct enrollment process, and more.
- The District created a website with information on Medicaid Renewal and the End of the Public Health Emergency that will host the Unwinding Plan, Stakeholder Toolkit, meeting info, etc.
- The District has hired a contractor to place visuals and audio Advertisements for Medicaid Renewal around the District starting in March and continuing throughout 2023.





# Visual Advertisements – Don't Wait to Update!




**Did you know** all DC residents with Medicaid, Alliance, or the Immigrant Children's Program must start renewing their coverage again?



**Don't miss out** on important information. If you haven't already, take time today to update your address, phone number, and/or email address at [districtdirect.dc.gov](https://districtdirect.dc.gov) so that DHCFL knows where to send your Medicaid renewal letter.






Then check your mail for info on how to renew. If you need help, please call us at **202-727-5355**.


## Don't Wait to Update!

All DC residents with **Medicaid** must renew their coverage this year.

Update your contact info at [districtdirect.dc.gov](https://districtdirect.dc.gov).



## Next Steps



- Advertisements will start this month.
- Per Federal guidance, renewals will start on April 1, 2023. People will renew for the next 14 months.
- DHCF will host trainings on District Direct and how to complete Medicaid renewal form. *If you'd like to request a training let us know. Training videos will also be available.*
- Please contact [Medicaid.renewal@dc.gov](mailto:Medicaid.renewal@dc.gov) for more information or to get connected to the meetings and trainings.
- **For Discussion:** What do you think would be helpful to increase awareness of Medicaid Renewal Restart in the District? How can we engage ANCs and other civic associations?