

Medicaid Unwinding Update

July 26, 2023



Unwinding Data Summary

Medicaid enrollment has increased 32% since March 2020 when the continuous coverage requirement of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) was instituted by CMS. DSS began the process of unwinding from the continuous coverage requirement in February 2023 and is following the recommendation of CMS to review no more than 1/9 of its caseload per month to ensure all cases are reviewed within the federal maximum allowable timeframe of 14 months.

By the Numbers

Medicaid and CHIP enrollments reached the highest number of eligibles ever in March 2023. At that time, there were 152,987 eligible. As of July 2023, there were 116,333 eligibles actively enrolled.

Since February 2023, there have been 54,169 individuals disenrolled from Medicaid:

- February and March – 16,078 recipients disenrolled effective April 1
- April – 13,759 recipients disenrolled effective May 1
- May – 12,837 recipients disenrolled effective June 1
- June – 11,495 recipients disenrolled effective July 1

Due to new approvals and eligibility reinstatements, the **total reduction in eligibles is 36,654** since February 2023.

Loss of Eligibility

Reasons that individuals could be determined to be ineligible for Medicaid include: income exceeds the limit, time-limited program enrollment has expired (i.e., pregnant women), ineligible for other coverage groups, moved out of state, death, non-cooperation with program requirements, or no longer entitled to Medicaid due to loss of Supplemental Security Income.

Unwinding Preparation: Communication

DSS took several steps to ensure communication was shared with recipients ahead of the unwinding period:

- Updated DSS.SD.gov FAQ for Medicaid coverage regarding COVID-19 and the unwinding
- DSS.SD.gov web page banner directed individuals to a specific webpage outlining FAQs for Medicaid eligibility and COVID-19 coverage
- Sent detailed mailers to recipients to inform them of their options regarding coverage

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- Social media posts urging Medicaid recipients to update their contact information with DSS to ensure they receive communications regarding their coverage
- Bulletin to provider groups from the Division of Medical Services with COVID-19 FAQs.
- Staff presented information to stakeholder groups to ensure they were informed and able to help answer questions their members may have about Medicaid unwinding

Unwinding resources continue to be available on the DSS website under Medical Assistance. If individuals are no longer eligible for Medicaid, there are additional resources to assist them in finding other insurance coverage.