

Returning Medicaid Eligibility to Normal Operations

Updated 2/7/2023



Purpose and Objectives

Purpose:

To provide an overview of Medicaid's plan for "unwinding" the Medicaid eligibility continuous enrollment requirement and returning to normal eligibility operations as defined by CMS Guidance.

Objective:

- **Smooth member transition**
 - Clear communication
 - Data transparency
 - Robust planning

Background

- COVID-19 PHE began on January 27, 2020
- Congress passed FFCRA* into law
 - A key provision allowed for **continuous coverage of Medicaid** through the PHE, starting March 2020 and ending April 2023
 - For **38 months**, Utah kept all Medicaid cases open
 - Exceptions:
 - 1. Member requested their case closed
 - 2. Member passed away
 - 3. Member moved out of state
- The Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) sets the Medicaid continuous enrollment end date of April 1, 2023. Effectively de-linking the unwinding of the eligibility rule from the PHE.
- The state will review ALL Medicaid cases as we “unwind” this key provision and resume normal operations.

*Families First Coronavirus Response Act



Pre-Unwinding Activities

Clear communication

- Messaged the importance of keeping member addresses and contact info current with DWS and completing eligibility reviews when possible
- DOH began to update addresses
- Data match with Equifax
- Shared closure lists with health plans

Data transparency

- Planned transparent reporting with defined metrics to meet CMS standards, legislative requirements
- Developed an unwinding dashboard, going live on 2/13/23

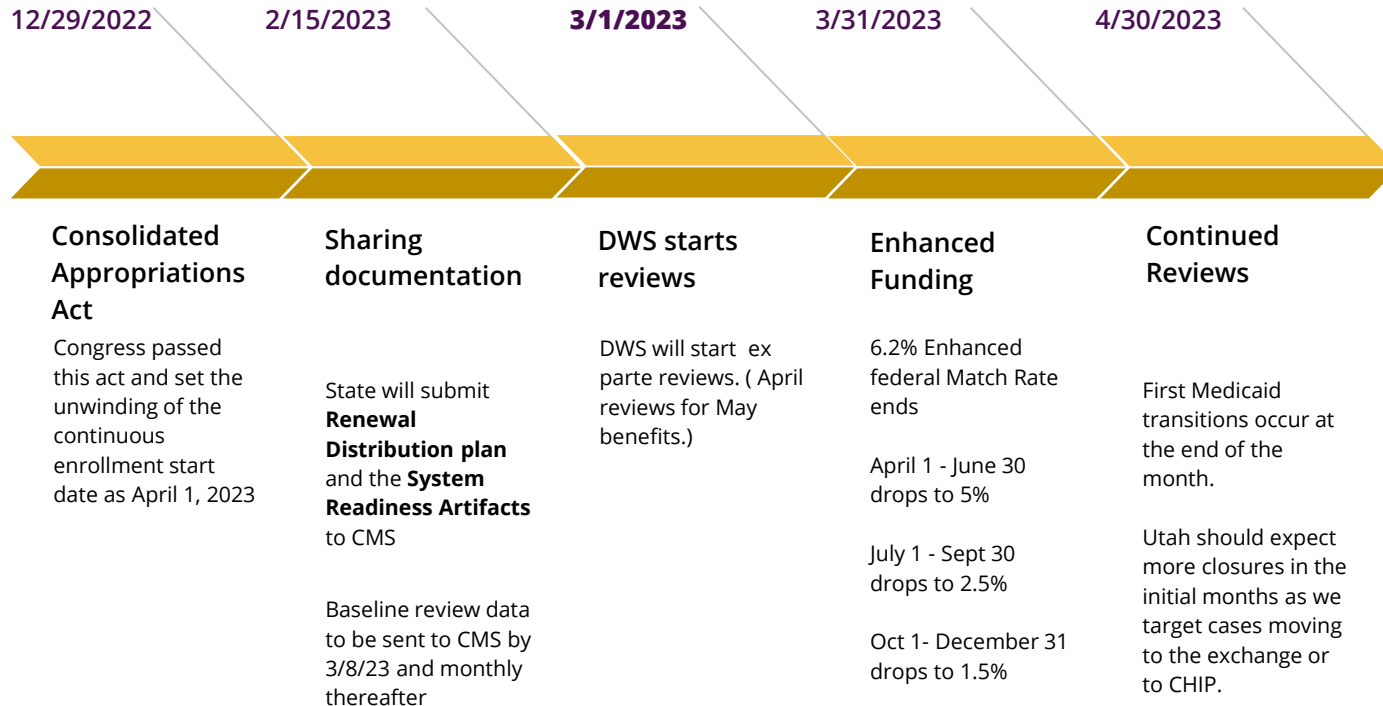
Robust planning

- Developed a comprehensive eligibility unwinding plan
- Multiple meetings with DWS, CMS, other stakeholders
 - Received some flexibility from CMS to help with the review process
- Proactive identification of cases held open (“flagged cases”)

Objective: Smooth member transition



Key Unwinding Dates



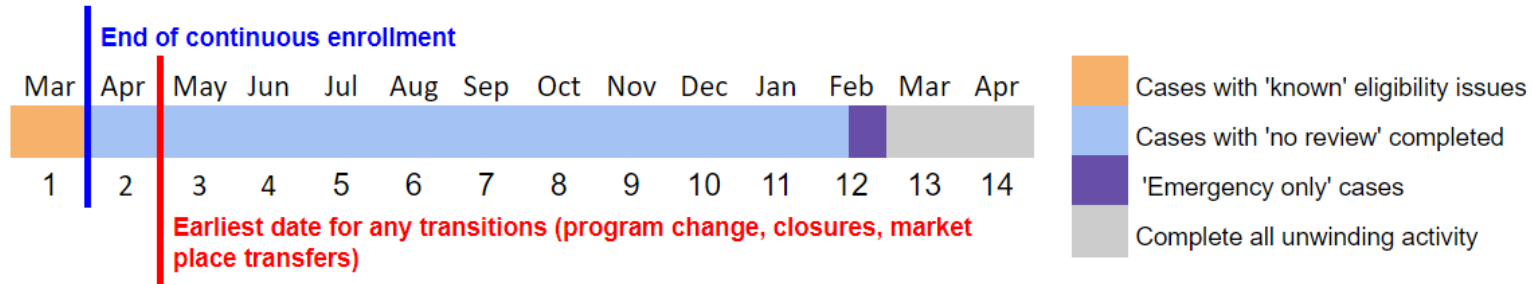
Case Priority and Review Timeline

All cases will be reviewed in 12 months ≈ 286,998 cases

- Most cases at their regularly scheduled review month
- Cases held open will be assigned a review month ≈ 145,911 cases (263,469 members)

Backlog cases prioritized by:

1. Known ineligibility issues
2. No review completed
 - Length of time held open
 - Utilization of services
 - Broad program mix
3. 'Emergency only' cases



Note: Per CMS, states cannot review more than 1/9 of the total cases in any month



Legislative Intent Language

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Workforce Services shall provide up-to-date information about plans and progress in response to the Public Health Emergency enrollment requirements ending.

Agencies shall regularly report to the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee and make public information about eligibility redeterminations and measures, including the number of cases, status, response type and outcomes.

House Bill 3 (2022) Items 44, 52, 220

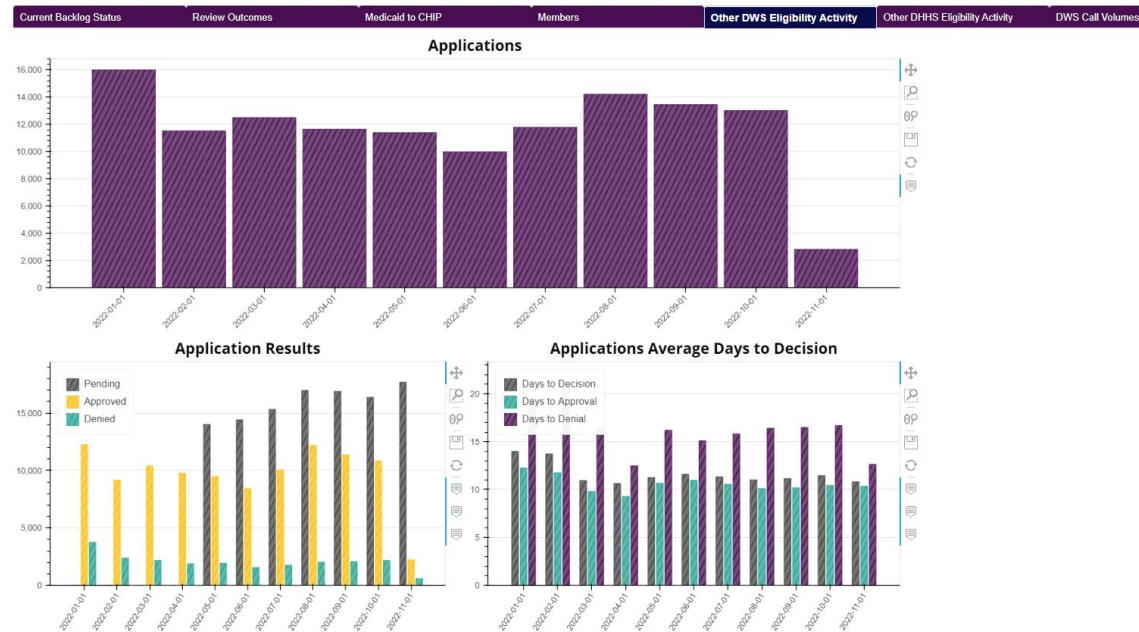


Stakeholder Communication

New Webpage and Dashboard

medicaid.utah.gov/unwinding

- Overall review progress
- Results of case reviews
- Other key metrics





Other Notable Changes

- CHIP health insurance premiums will resume in May 2023
- Medicaid spenddowns will be required at the member's next renewal
- Optional COVID-19 group
 - Coverage ends the last day of the PHE
- Other eligibility components will return to normal
 - overpayments, ESI sanctions, Medical Support Enforcement sanctions, etc.
- Some flexibilities that were granted during the PHE may end
 - NEMT for non-traditional, verbal signatures, etc.



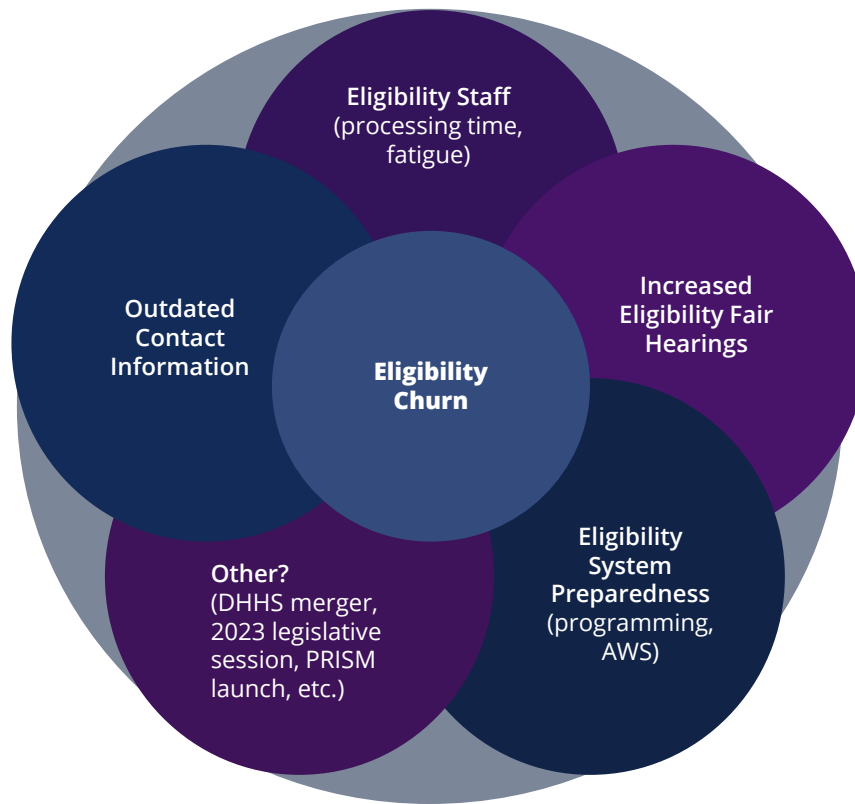
Member Communication Plan

DHHS will be sending informational notices to compliment the DWS eligibility notices.

01	COVID-19 Coverage Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notify the COVID-19 group that their coverage ends at the end of the PHE.• Informs them of how to apply for Medicaid• Sent 5/16/2022
02	General Notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sent to all Medicaid members• General information on what to expect with the end of Medicaid's continuous enrollment requirement• Sent 1/30 to 2/3/23 (light green paper)
03	CHIP Premiums	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notify CHIP members that quarterly premiums will resume starting in May 2023• Early February 2023 (light yellow paper)
04	Spenddowns/ MWI Premium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notify Medically Needy members that their monthly spenddowns will be required following their first renewal.• Early February 2023 (light blue paper)
05	Emergency Medicaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notify Emergency Medicaid recipients that they can "raise their hand" when their citizenship status changes to be considered for full Medicaid benefits• Early February 2023 (light pink paper)



Potential Eligibility Risks





“This is a marathon, not a sprint!”
