

# Unwinding of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Rules for Medicaid

- Since March of 2020, Medicaid has followed special rules because of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). This has allowed most Medicaid members to keep their health coverage if they no longer qualified.
- On December 29, 2022, President Biden signed the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act into law.
- This means that while the PHE continues, all States (Including New Jersey) are now required to resume their Medicaid Eligibility Processes beginning April 1, 2023. This process is also referred to as *Unwinding*.



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- Preparing for the *Unwinding*:
  - Call 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711) to update contact information. This is especially important if you have moved in the last 3 years.
  - Watch for mail related to NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid **and** make sure to reply on time.
  - Continue to ensure income and resources are below the limits for the Medicaid Program in which you are enrolled.
  - Additional information can be found on the DMAHS website:
    - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/>
    - <https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/unwinding/>
    - [https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/documents/StayCoveredNJ\\_Toolkit.pdf](https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/staycoverednj/documents/StayCoveredNJ_Toolkit.pdf)



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- What DDD Has Been Doing to Prepare for the *Unwinding*:
  - DDD Waiver Unit/Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk staff have reviewed monthly reports of individuals enrolled on DDD waivers whose Medicaid is scheduled to terminate.
  - Waiver Unit/Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk staff have been contacting Support Coordination Agencies (SCAs) and/or legal guardians to inform them of eligibility issues and providing instructions on how to resolve, such as:
    - RFI packets being sent out by Waiver Unit for individuals who are enrolled on a DDD waiver but facing an upcoming termination due to a loss of SSI.
    - Direction to follow up with appropriate entity such as Social Security Administration and/or County Board of Social Services directly to rectify an eligibility issue (suspensions, non-pay status, etc.)



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- What DDD Has Been Doing to Prepare for the *Unwinding*:
  - DDD Waiver codes have been reopened for individuals who have maintained Medicaid under the PHE to ensure no lapse in waiver coverage.
  - Throughout the PHE, DDD has encouraged individuals to comply with any/all requests to avoid loss of Medicaid during the unwinding. This would include requests such as renewals, RFI packets, etc. coming from DDD or Medicaid directly.
  - The Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk has continued to respond to Medicaid eligibility questions from SCA staff, families, etc. Individual cases have been reviewed and instruction provided to maintain Medicaid eligibility.

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- DDD Will Continue to Assist during the *Unwinding*:
  - DDD is working closely with DMAHS and will be receiving updated lists monthly of everyone enrolled on a DDD Waiver who is scheduled to go through Medicaid eligibility redetermination.
    - Additional lists from DMAHS will include those scheduled for monthly renewals as well as those scheduled for termination within that month.
      - Individuals who are terminated due to failure to respond to a renewal/RFI will be able to submit documentation up to 90 days after a termination. In this scenario, the individual would be considered for a retroactive reinstatement if found to be eligible during this timeframe.



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- DDD Will Continue to Assist during the *Unwinding*:
  - DDD Waiver/Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk staff will be reaching out to Support Coordinators and/or the individual's legal guardian with more information as we receive it.
- Please feel free to reach out to the DDD Medicaid Eligibility Helpdesk with any questions:

[DDD.MediEligHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.MediEligHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov)





# Important Resources

- [The Boggs Center](#)
  - 1-732-235-9300
- [Disability Rights New Jersey](#)
  - 1-800-922-7233 (toll-free in New Jersey only)
- [Ombudsman for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families](#)
  - 1-609-984-7764
- [New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)
  - 1-800-792-8858