



Restarting Medicaid Renewals: The End of the Continuous Enrollment Requirement Bi-weekly Meeting #16

Medicaid Renewal Community Meeting

Department of Health Care Finance

November 8, 2023

1



Presentation Overview



- Medicaid Renewal Background
- What's New This Week
- Redetermination Report Highlights
- Key Information on Outreach and Medicaid Renewal
- Next Steps
- Q&A



Medicaid Beneficiaries Will Have to Renew Their Coverage for the First Time in 3+ Years



- In March 2020, CMS temporarily waived the need to renew Medicaid coverage and states received a 6.2% financial boost to accommodate the increased enrollment.
- Medicaid enrollment has increased 20% since the start of the public health emergency 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 restarted Medicaid eligibility renewals beginning April 1, 2023. (Alliance and Immigrant Children's Program renewals started in July 2022). The <u>first five groups</u> were required to renew coverage before May 31, June 30, July 31, August 31, and September 30



The District Must Go Through the Renewal Process for all Medicaid Beneficiaries Before Taking an Adverse Action



- MAGI Medicaid Beneficiaries (most adults under 65, pregnant women and children under 21, parents/caretaker relatives)
 - A passive renewal happens at the end of the month prior to mailing of renewal packets. If passively renewed, beneficiaries receive a notice their coverage is renewed and require no further action.
 - The first renewal notice is sent at the end of the month 60 days prior to certification end date.
 - If renewal not received or there are outstanding verifications a second notice of pending termination is sent 30 days prior to certification end date.
- Non-MAGI Medicaid Beneficiaries (Age 65+, blind, or person with a disability, SSI recipients, waiver participants)
 - The first renewal notice is sent at the end of the month 90 days prior to certification end date.
 - If renewal not received or there are outstanding verifications a second notice of pending termination is sent 30 days prior to certification end date.
- District Direct renewal sample notices are available on the <u>DHCF Website</u>.
- Medicaid renewal packages have distinctive markings on the envelope.



The District Has a 90-Day Renewal Reinstatement Period for Those Who Do Not Return by Their End Date



- There is a 90-day grace period for individuals who do not renew Medicaid ahead of their certification end date. The grace period allows additional time for individuals who fail to recertify timely in submitting their renewal.
- If the beneficiary is determined eligible for continued coverage, coverage will retroactively go back to the certification end date. If a provider provides care in this period, they will be reimbursed -if the individual recertifies within the grace period.
- Individuals can recertify their coverage in District Direct, mail, service center, fax, etc. by submitting their renewal form or completing a renewal online up to 90 days after their recertification end date.
- Individuals attempting to recertify their coverage after 90 days following their recertification end date will be required to **submit a new application**.
 - The grace period for the August cohort ends on <u>11/30</u>. From 12/1/23 and forward, this cohort will be required to submit a new application to reactivate their benefits.

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*** Key Messaging: Beneficiaries with LTC and Waiver Coverage SHOULD Have Their Renewal Completed by a Case Worker



- We expect case workers assigned to beneficiaries in long term care (LTC) and waiver programs in DC Medicaid to complete those beneficiary's renewal applications
- Case workers use a version of District Direct specifically for their use called the Partner Portal
- Case workers do not need to act until a beneficiary's coverage is up for renewal
- If you do not know who your case worker is and you are in a LTC or waiver program, please contact the LTCA hotline at 202-442-9533; OR the agency where the case manager works
 - If you are enrolled in UHC, you should contact UHC Enrollee Services at 1-(866)-242-7726
 - If you are in PACE, contact the PACE Center at (571)-622-0555 or Toll Free 1-(877)-324-7223

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Key Messaging: Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB) Must Renew Through DC Medicaid to Keep Their Coverage!



- While Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB) may receive most of their coverage through Medicare, QMBs are considered Medicaid beneficiaries and need to take part in Medicaid Renewal
- The QMB program helps District residents who are eligible for Medicare pay for their Medicare costs. This means that Medicaid will pay for monthly Medicare Part A and Part B premiums and cost sharing (e.g. doctor's office visit copays).
- Income and residency are the primary eligibility factors reviewed at renewal for QMBs (no resource test).
- If you know any seniors who are QMBs and may need to renew, please contact them!



Key Messaging: Medicare Open Enrollment Does Not Affect Your Medicaid Coverage



- Medicare Open Enrollment started on October 1, allowing seniors to choose between Medicare plans
- Choosing a new Medicare plan *does not affect* your Medicaid coverage
- Seniors enrolled as QMBs or in District Dual Choice (D-SNP) through UnitedHealthcare must have their Medicaid coverage renewed through DHCF –even if they take action during Medicare Open Enrollment
- Please tell any seniors you know about Medicaid Renewal and that it's different from **Medicare Open Enrollment!**

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UPDATE SINCE LAST MEETING: DHCF Gives 30 Day Extension for Non-MAGI Beneficiaries with 11/30 Certification End Dates



- In response to current Non-MAGI renewal rates, DHCF will extend Non-MAGI certification end dates for those with 11/30 end dates by 30 days
 - During this time, DHCF will continue to work with LTSS providers, Case Managers, MCO partners, and care teams to ensure that required elements of renewal submissions are submitted and requested in a timely manner
 - This goes into effect on 12/1 for those whose certification end date is 11/30
- DHCF previously extended Non-MAGI certification end dates for those with 6/30, 7/31, 8/31, 9/30, and 10/31 end dates
- DHCF extends the coverage of those who returned their renewal form on time but for whom
 DHCF could not complete an eligibility determination before the certification end date
 - Anyone who submitted their renewal timely is extended in MMIS
 - The extension will last until DHCF processes the application
- DHCF will continue to reviewing the effectiveness of these extensions to inform strategy going forward and is building out a plan to connect with these beneficiaries further



UPDATE SINCE LAST MEETING: Bi-Weekly Meeting Scheduled for November 22, 2023 Will Be Cancelled



- DHCF will cancel the November 22nd Community Meeting on Medicaid Renewal ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday
- Next meeting will proceed <u>as scheduled</u> on December 6, 2023.
- Stay tuned for additional changes to scheduled meetings as we approach holidays at year's end.



Presentation Overview



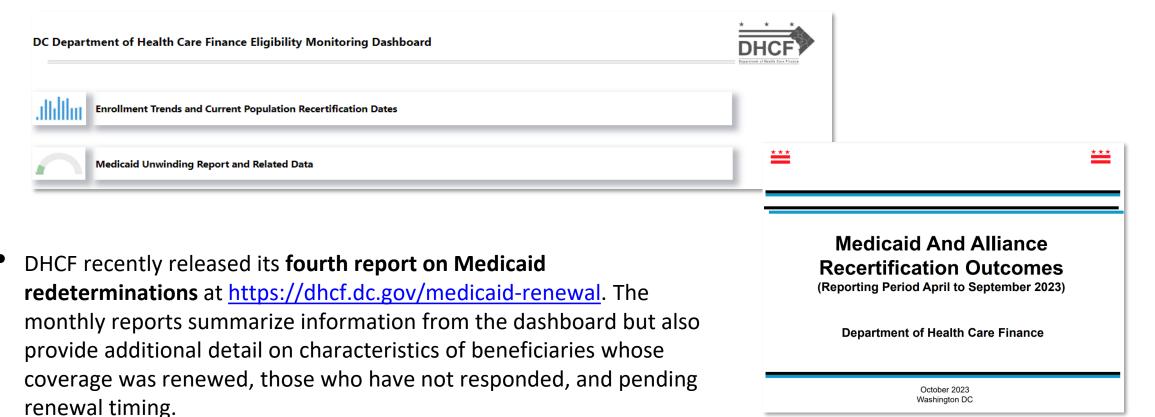
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DC Medicaid Renewal Data is Publicly Available and Regularly Updated on the DHCF Website



Dashboard data at https://dhcf.dc.gov/eligibilitydashboard is as of October 23. For an overview, see 10/25/2023 community meeting materials.





Redetermination Report Summarizes Dashboard Information and Provides Additional Detail

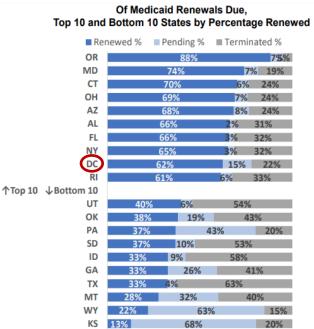


Key Findings

- The share of Medicaid beneficiaries who are re-enrolled or have a renewal pending is close to or above 80% for May, June, and September. For May through September overall, three-quarters are renewed or pending.
 - For June through September, people with disabilities and those age 65+ received one-month extensions to allow for additional response time. Response during the 30-day extension period and the overall 90-day grace period for each group has been relatively low, but DHCF will continue monitoring these beneficiaries to inform strategy going forward.
 - July and August renewal rates are impacted by the high number of beneficiaries who were kept enrolled during the public health emergency the so-called "PHE group". These individuals had income or other changes that made them appear ineligible and are therefore unlikely to renew passively. May, June, and September included very few PHE beneficiaries.
- People with disabilities and those age 65+ have had lower renewal rates than other groups. Childless adults have a high passive renewal rate but are least likely to respond when additional information is required.
- Renewal figures for all months will increase as responses are received during the 90-day grace period that follows a beneficiary's recertification date.
 - The grace period for the May and June cohorts has ended and these beneficiaries must now submit a new application to reactivate benefits.
 - Approximately one in three beneficiaries due in May and June responded during their grace period.

 Grace period responses for those due in July and later will increase until their 90-day period runs out.
- More than half of District Medicaid beneficiaries have had a renewal initiated to date. By May 2024, all individuals enrolled at the end of the public health emergency will have been due for a renewal.

- DC currently has among the highest overall and passive renewal rates in the nation.
- For example, 62% of DC Medicaid beneficiaries due in May-August had renewed as of October 23.
 - DC ranked 9th highest out of 44 states with data for the overall renewal rate (see chart at right).
 - DC also ranked 9th highest for the rate of passive renewals (data not shown).
 - A variety of factors contribute to variation across states, including differences in the groups being targeted for early renewals as well as differences in renewal policies and system capacity.



Medicaid Beneficiaries Who Responded During Their 90-Day Grace Period, by Month Due for Those Due in May – September

Month Due	Beneficiaries with Response to a Non- Passive Renewal	Responded During Grace Period	Grace Period Percent of Response Total
May 2023	3,014	943	31%
June 2023	6,880	2,012	29%
July 2023	13,120	3,832	29%
August 2023	11,659	2,597	22%
September 2023	4,358	523	12%
Total	39,031	9,907	25%



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The District is Conducting Outreach to Beneficiaries Through as Many Mediums as Possible



- DHCF is sending Renewal Packets to beneficiaries who cannot passively renew coverage.
- The District is <u>texting the cell numbers of beneficiaries</u> to ask beneficiaries to update their address and/or complete their renewal packet.
 - The District has added a survey feature to automated text messaging this month to poll beneficiaries on their intent to renew their DC Medicaid coverage. This functionality will also be added to voice calls in the coming weeks.
- The District is conducting <u>automated phone calls</u> to ask beneficiaries to update their contact information and/or complete their renewal packet.
- The District <u>sending emails</u> to beneficiaries with the appropriate information to let them know about Medicaid Renewal and the need to update their address and renew their coverage.
- The District is sending <u>push notifications</u> to beneficiaries who have downloaded the District Direct mobile app

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Consumer Alert: Beware of Medicaid Renewal Scams!





Beware of Medicaid Renewal Scams

The DC Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB) is warning District consumers to be on guard against fake Medicaid renewal scams. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the review of Medicaid eligibility for enrolled clients was paused. Jurisdictions, including the District of Columbia, are now returning to prepandemic renewal plans. As a result, scam artists may increase efforts to defraud unsuspecting consumers!

How is the Scam Perpetrated?

Scammers impersonate Medicaid representatives, and claim coverage is being canceled or benefits have been lost. Personal information such as social security number, Medicaid ID, and bank account information is requested immediately to renew enrollment, resulting in identity theft. Scammers may also threaten you with civil or criminal penalties and demand that you pay a fee to continue receiving benefits.



******* The District Has Multiple Ongoing Methods of External Outreach **And Wants to Join Your Meetings Too!**



- The District wants to join meetings of key stakeholders to explain Medicaid Renewal
 - DHCF staff would attend meetings hosted by your stakeholder group -or that you know about *-send invites to us* via email at Medicaid.restart@dc.gov.
- The District created a <u>website</u> with information on Medicaid Renewal and the End of the Public Health Emergency that hosts the Unwinding Plan, Stakeholder Toolkit, meeting recordings and slides, etc.
- The District is hosting regular Community Stakeholder meetings such as this every other week continuing everyother-Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. and next is on Wednesday, December 6
 - Please email Medicaid.restart@dc.gov to join the meetings and related mailing list if not on it already
- The District is holding monthly Beneficiary-Focused Meetings on 'How Do I Renew My DC Medicaid Health <u>Insurance</u>" – the sixth is <u>Saturday</u>, <u>November 18 @ 11:00 AM</u>.
- The District is continuing monthly Districtwide Trainings on Medicaid Renewal designed for stakeholders and anyone helping others with renewals – the seventh is **Tuesday, November 21 @ 10:30 AM**.

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Save Time! Submit Your Renewal Online!



Medicaid beneficiaries may submit their completed renewals:

- Online: District Direct allows beneficiaries to complete their renewal, report changes, submit verifications, and view notices online or through the mobile app. Beneficiaries may visit https://districtdirect.dc.gov/ or download the mobile app through the Apple App Store or Google Play. Please encourage beneficiaries to complete their renewal online!
- **By Phone**: Public Benefits Call Center at (202) 727-5355
- By Mail

Department of Human Services | Economic Security Administration Case Record Management Unit P.O. Box 91560 Washington, DC 20090

- <u>In-Person</u>: Drop-off completed forms at or receive in-person assistance at a DHS Service Center.
- By Fax: You may fax renewals to (202) 671-4400



DHCF is Working with The Health Benefits Exchange and DC Health Link to Ensure Continuity and Access of Health Coverage



- <u>DC Health Link:</u> DC Health Link is the health care exchange program in the District of Columbia ensuring access to quality and affordable health care to all DC residents. DC Health Link, coordinates benefits and create a "no-wrong-door" environment for District residents seeking help with insurance coverage and costs.
- Relationship with Medicaid Renewal: DC Health Link can find health coverage if a beneficiary no longer qualifies for Medicaid but may quality for other health plans
 - DC Health Link may also the first place some beneficiaries go to find or renew coverage
- Recording of Presentation on 4/26: You can find a recording of the presentation DC Health Link made on 4/26 on the Medicaid Renewal website at https://dhcf.dc.gov/medicaid-renewal
 - DC Health Link is making sure that representatives are here and at future meetings

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Respond to DHCF's <u>Survey</u> to Provide Feedback on the 1115 Waiver Renewal



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

MDL # 23-03

MEDICAID DIRECTOR LETTER

TO: All Interested Pa

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Input on the Renewal of the Behavioral Health Transformation

115 Waiver

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The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) is soliciting stakeholder responses on the direction and goals of the 1115 waiver renewal application that will be submitted to CMS no later than July 1, 2024. Responses are due by Monday, November 27th at 5pm.

Background

In November of 2019, the District of Columbia began its journey of Behavioral Health Transformation. Led by the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) and its partner, the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), a multi-year phased approach was established encompassing behavioral health service expansion (Phase I), managed care integration (Phase II), and integrated care payment models (Phase III)

In Phase I, through the Section 1115 Waiver Demonstration, the District enhanced Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment through the introduction of new services, funding extended care in impatient and residential settings, such as institutions for mental diseases (IMDs), and eliminating co-pays for approved prescription drugs. All waiver services were implemented by October 2020.

Phase II seeks to integrate the continuum of behavioral health services into the managed care program, DC Healthy Families. This effort is often referred to as the "cave-in". The full integration of the continuum of behavioral health services will be effective April 1, 2024.

Phase III is focused on the integration of services and payment models including value-based care. This phase includes the renewal of the Section 1115 Behavioral Health Transformation waiver. The 1115 waiver renewal will, at a minimum, maintain IMD services, allowing for the continued coverage of needed behavioral health services.

DHCF is also considering adding health-related social need (HRSN) services and an additional focus on our most vulnerable populations (i.e., individuals who are justice-involved, experiencing homelessness or at risk, or have complex care needs, etc.) to the 1115 waiver renewal request. These items are under consideration because they present an opportunity to further enhance DHCF's capacity to achieve our stated agency mission of improving health outcomes by providen access to comprehensive, cost-effective, and quality healthcare services for residents of the District.

DHCF published a <u>Medicaid Director Letter</u> on Friday, November 3, releasing a <u>survey</u> to gather feedback from community stakeholders on the direction and goals of the 1115 waiver renewal application that will be submitted to CMS by July 1, 2024. *Survey responses are due by 5pm on Monday, November 27*.

The survey includes questions on:

- ▶ Current waiver goals and goals for the waiver renewal
- ▶ Behavioral health services (including IMD services)
- ▶ Health-related social needs (HRSN) services
 - Housing
 - Nutrition services
- Justice-involved reentry

Please email dhcf.waiverinitiative@dc.gov with any questions about the 1115 waiver renewal, including the survey

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Medicaid Renewal: Next Steps



- Outreach is <u>ongoing</u>. Look for our messaging and fliers throughout the community!
 - Act Now, Stay Covered
- Automated Calls and Texts <u>will continue monthly</u> to beneficiaries whose coverage is due to be renewed
- The District is holding beneficiary-focused meetings on Medicaid Renewal requirements monthly in the evenings or late mornings on Saturdays- the next meeting is Saturday, November 18 @ 11:00 AM.
- The next Community Meeting on Medicaid Renewal will be <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>December 6, 2023 @ 2:30 PM</u> and continue every 2 weeks.
- The District will hold trainings on how to use District Direct for Medicaid Renewal monthly. The next Districtwide Training on Medicaid Renewal will be Tuesday, November 21 @ 10:30 AM.
- Please contact <u>Medicaid.renewal@dc.gov</u> for more information or to get connected to the meetings



Questions and Comments



Learn more about DC Medicaid Renewals:

https://dhcf.dc.gov/medicaid-renewal

Medicaid Renewal

Medicaid.Renewal@dc.gov



Appendix A: Acceptable Verifications of Income



The following types of documents can be used to verify income for DHCF programs:

- Recent pay stubs (four weekly, two bi-weekly, or one monthly);
- Completed employer verification form;
- Statement showing retirement income, disability income, workers compensation income or pension statement;
- Bank/Checking account statement;
- Paper, electronic, or telephonic documentation;
- A written statement which explains the discrepancy if other documentation is not available.



Appendix B: Acceptable Verifications of Residency



The following types of documents can be used to verify residency for DHCF programs:

- An active lease agreement, certified deed, or mortgage statement with a District and their name;
- Phone or Utility bill within the past 2 months;
- D.C. Voter Registration Card;
- Non-expired D.C. motor vehicle registration or D.C. DMV identification card;
- Cancelled check or receipt of mortgage or rental payments within the past 2 months;
- Utility bills and payment receipts with a D.C. address within the past 2 months;
- Non-expired automobile insurance statement with a D.C. residency address;
- D.C. One Card; or
- Completed and signed proof of D.C. Residency Form



Appendix C: Eligibility Categories are Based on Federal Poverty Limits



Parent Caretaker 2023 FPL

The District covers this population with household income up to 216% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)

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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

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The District covers this population with household income up to 319% and 216% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)

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

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Appendix D: Eligibility Categories are Based on Federal Poverty Limits



Pregnant 2023 FPL The District covers this population with household income up to 319% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard) 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

Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

\$12,263

\$13,651

Adults without Dependent Children	(Childless Adults)	2023 FPL
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he District covers this population with household income up to 210% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)

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

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7 person household, monthly

8 person household, monthly



Appendix E: Eligibility Category QMB-Federal Poverty Limits



QMB 2023 FPL				
The District covers this population with household income up to 300% of				
the FPL (with an o	the FPL (with an additional \$20 for QMB Plus)			
Category QMB QMB Plus				
Threshold in FPL	300% + \$20	100% + \$20		
1 person household, monthly	\$3,665	\$1,235		
2 person household, monthly	\$4,950	\$1,663		
3 person household, monthly	\$6,235	\$2,092		
4 person household, monthly	\$7,520	\$2,520		
5 person household, monthly	\$8,805	\$2,948		
6 person household, monthly	\$10,090	\$3,377		
7 person household, monthly	\$11,375	\$3,805		
8 person household, monthly	\$12,660	\$4,233		
Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S.				

Department of Health and Human Services (+5% income disregard



Appendix F: Key Tips to Connect District Direct Accounts to Beneficiaries



- Some individuals recertifying will need to connect their account to their established case profile in District Direct.
 - Note: This is a result of the District switching from the legacy eligibility processing system (ACEDS) during the PHE
- Primary Applicants can connect their account using their Social Security Number, Medicaid ID Number, or Person Reference Number
- A SSN is **NOT** needed to connect a newly created District Direct account to a primary applicant's case profile
 - <u>Note</u>: Primary applicants in a household can use their Personal Reference Number instead of an SSN
- Please note that the name used to connect must match what is currently in the system. Names listed on notices reflect what is in the system. For example, if the name in the system is John Doe-Smith, that must be used to connect instead of John Doe.

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Appendix G: What Can Stakeholders Say to Beneficiaries?



What Beneficiaries Can Do Right Now

- <u>Don't Wait to Update!</u>: 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!
- <u>Check Your Mail</u>: 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

• <u>Complete your renewal</u> by using districtdirect.dc.gov or fill out the form and mail/fax/drop at Service Center immediately to help avoid a gap in your coverage.



Appendix H: DC Healthy Families MCOs are Engaged in a Variety of Medicaid Renewal Activities



The MCOs continue to conduct Medicaid renewal outreach activities which include:

Community
Outreach Events

Sending text messaging

Social media updates and posting videos

Home visits (door knockers)

Mailing flyers

Robo and staff calls

Ads in community publications

Participate in DHCF trainings community updates

MCOs may have wellness centers that offer access to Wi-Fi, computers, and printers to assist with completing renewals. MCO staff are available to answer questions as well.



For enrollees who are slated to lose Medicaid coverage the end of June, the MCOs are conducting targeted phone calls, text messages, and home visits.

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Appendix I: The District is Doing Dedicated Outreach to Special Populations



Senior Beneficiaries

- DHCF is partnering with DACL to train their staff and senior service network on the renewal process.
- Seniors are able to access in-person assistance at Senior Wellness Centers and 40+ Community Dining Sites across the District.
- The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior Center and Senior Center for the Blind have also committed to assisting seniors with applications.

Beneficiaries Living with Disabilities

DHCF is training employees at DDS and their providers to help beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries Experiencing Homelessness

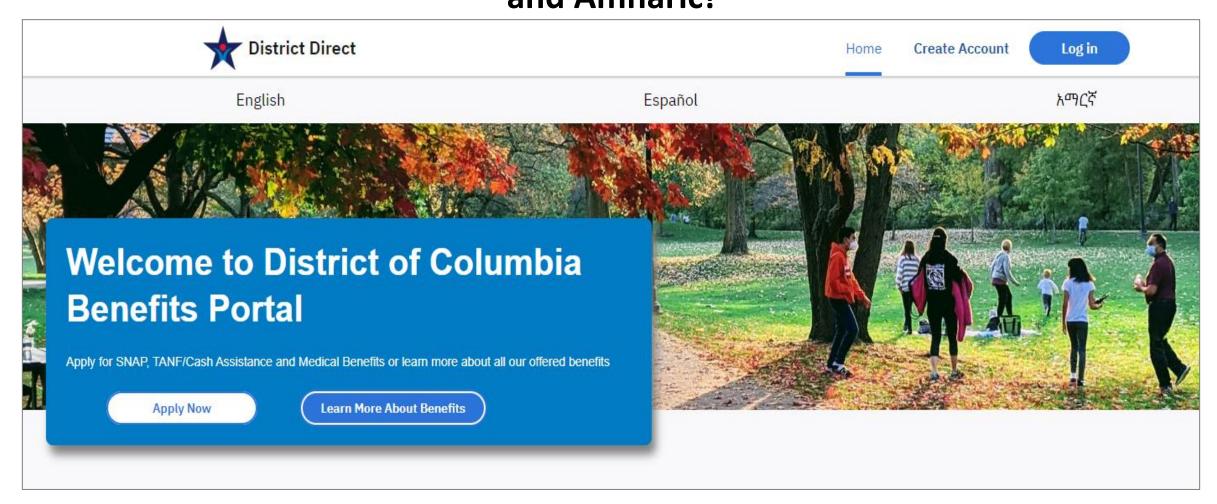
• DHCF is meeting with outreach staff, shelter case workers, and adult day centers that work with beneficiaries experiencing homelessness to ensure they are prepared to spread the word and assist beneficiaries with completing their renewals.

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Appendix J: District Direct is available online in English, Spanish, and Amharic!

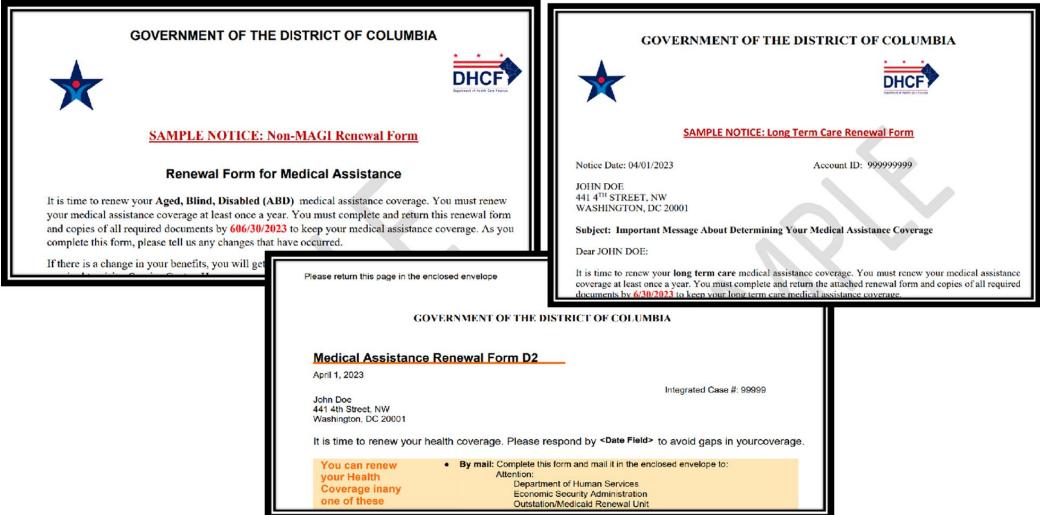






Appendix K: Look Out For These Renewal Documents in the Mail!



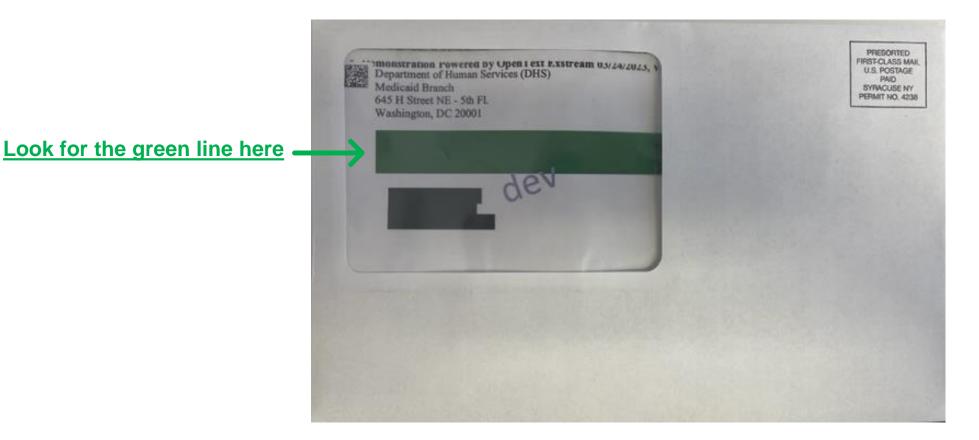


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Appendix L: Look Out For An Envelope that Looks Like This!





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