



Restarting Medicaid Renewals: The End of the Continuous Enrollment Requirement Bi-weekly Meeting #17

Medicaid Renewal Community Meeting

Department of Health Care Finance

December 6, 2023



Presentation Overview



- Medicaid Renewal Background
- What's New This Week
- Data Update
- 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 seven groups</u> were **required to renew coverage before May 31, June 30, July 31, August 31, September 30, October 31, and November 30**

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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 September cohort ends on <u>12/31</u>. From 1/1/24 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 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 and ends tomorrow, 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 12/31 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 1/1 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, 10/31, and 11/30 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: DC Council Held a Public Roundtable on Benefits and the DC Access System (DCAS)



- This past Monday, December 4th, the DC Council Committees on Health and Housing held a Joint Oversight Roundtable on Health and Human Services Benefits Enrollment and the DC Access System (DCAS)
- Featured testimony from stakeholders and agencies about submission and timely review of benefit applications in DCAS -including Medicaid Renewals
- DHCF/DHS has followed up with beneficiaries/advocates that raised concerns with specific cases.
- DHCF/DHS appreciates stakeholder feedback and continues to review recommendations on how the District can improve renewal operations.



UPDATE SINCE LAST MEETING: DHCF is Addressing Ex-Parte Household Renewals Process and Will Share Key Update on 12/20 DH



- DHCF is addressing recent communications where CMS <u>clarified</u> that ex parte (passive or automatic) renewals must be done individually and not at the household level
 - Example: A mother and child are each enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of MAGI, as a household of two. DC's MAGI Medicaid threshold is 216% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for parents/caretaker relatives and 319% of the FPL for children (not counting the 5% disregard). Ex parte eligibility must be processed separately for the mother and the child with respect to the separate eligibility levels.
- DHCF has taken action to ensure compliance:
 - Reinstatements are live in MMIS for potentially impacted children with May through July certification end dates
 - DHCF paused disenrollments for potentially impacted children with August certification end dates and beyond
- A comprehensive system fix is in development and nearing completion. This comprehensive fix will allow the District to be fully compliant with federal ex-parte requirements.
- DHCF will share final timeline and other key information on the fix at the 12/20 Bi-Weekly Meeting



Presentation Overview



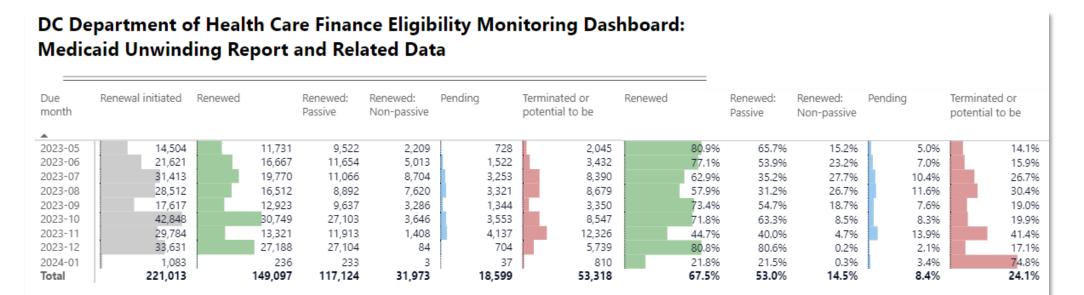
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DC Medicaid Renewal Data Is Publicly Available and Regularly Updated on the DHCF Website



- ▶ **Dashboard** at https://dhcf.dc.gov/eligibilitydashboard is updated by the middle of each month (current version reflects data as of 11/20/2023).
- An accompanying **report on redeterminations** is available by the end of each month at https://dhcf.dc.gov/medicaid-renewal. Reports summarize information from the dashboard, but also provide additional detail on: characteristics of beneficiaries whose coverage was renewed; those who have not responded; and pending renewal timing.
- ▶ Data on specific topics may also be provided in <u>meeting materials</u> that accompany **biweekly Community Meetings**.



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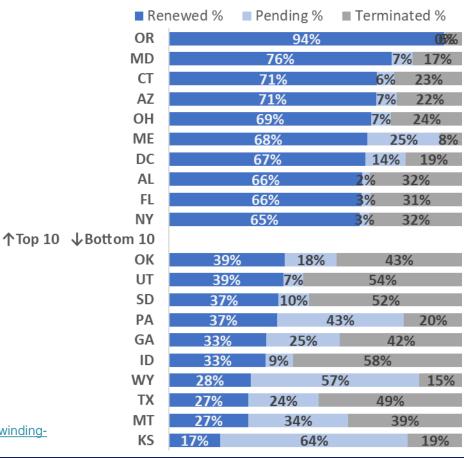
Renewal Rates in the District Are High Relative to Many Other States



- DC currently has among the highest overall and passive renewal rates in the nation.
- ▶ For example, 67% of DC Medicaid beneficiaries due in May-September had renewed as of October 23 (before DC's latest dashboard update in November).
 - DC ranked 7th highest out of 45 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.

Source: Data from $\frac{https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-enrollment-and-unwinding-tracker/}{tracker/} as of November 21, 2023.$





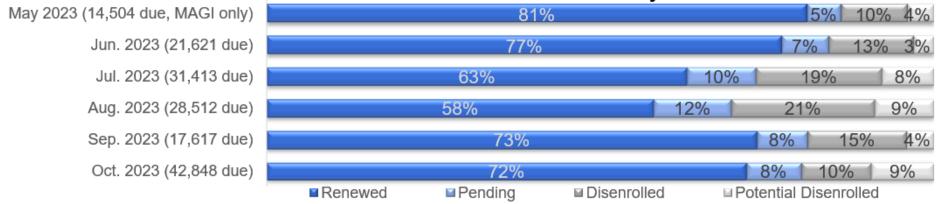
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More Than Three-Quarters of Medicaid Beneficiaries Due Are Re-Enrolled or Have a Renewal Pending



Renewal Outcomes to Date for Beneficiaries Due in May - October



- ▶ 80% or more of beneficiaries due in May, June, September, and October are renewed or pending. 70% or more for July and August are renewed or pending. For May through October overall, more than three-quarters are re-enrolled or pending.
- ▶ Lower July and August rates are due in part to a large number of "PHE beneficiaries" who were kept enrolled during the public health emergency but had income or other changes that made them appear ineligible and therefore unlikely to renew passively (i.e., no beneficiary response required). October includes PHE beneficiaries but also many Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries who are automatically extended based their receipt of SSI. September includes very few PHE beneficiaries.
- ▶ For May through October, the "Potential Disenrolled" category includes approximately 10,000 non-disabled (i.e., MAGI) children under age 21 whose coverage terminations are paused or under review for reinstatement while DHCF ensures compliance with federal "ex parte" rules for passive renewals. For October, it also includes approximately 1,200 people with disabilities and those age 65+ (i.e., non-MAGI) who received one-month extensions through November to allow additional response time (earlier non-MAGI extensions have expired). For more information, see DHCF's Medicaid renewal meeting materials for 10/25/2023 here.
- Renewal figures for all months will increase as responses are received during the 90-day grace period. The grace period ended in August for beneficiaries due in May, in September for those due in June, and in October for those due in July. Beyond the grace period, individuals must submit a full application to reactivate their overage.

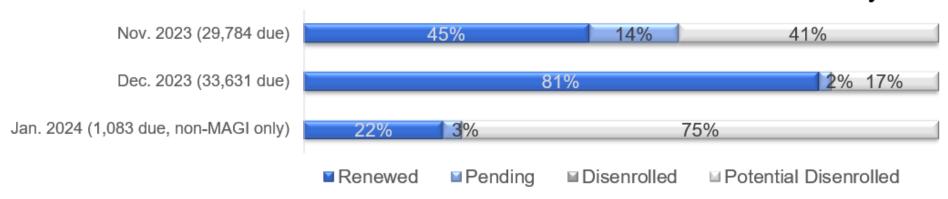
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Medicaid Beneficiaries Due in November or Later Who Have Not Yet Responded Will Remain Enrolled Until They Reach Their Recertification Date



Renewal Outcomes to Date for Beneficiaries Due in November – January



- For beneficiaries due in November, which is the last month to include a substantial number of PHE individuals who are unlikely to passively renew, nearly 60% are renewed or pending.
- More than 80% of beneficiaries due in December are renewed or pending. This is largely driven by a high passive renewal rate among non-disabled children and adults under age 65 (i.e., MAGI) for this month.
- ▶ January is incomplete because only beneficiaries with disabilities and those age 65+ (i.e., non-MAGI) have received renewal notices to date. Non-disabled children and adults under age 65 due in January will receive renewal notices by December 1.
- As noted earlier, DHCF is pausing terminations for non-disabled (i.e., MAGI) children under age 21 to ensure compliance with federal "ex parte" rules governing passive renewals, including 3,900 due in November. They will remain in the "Potential Disenrolled" category past their recertification date during the pause. For November, this category also includes approximately 3,900 people with disabilities and those age 65+ (i.e., non-MAGI) who will receive one-month extensions through December to allow additional time if they have not responded by their due date. For more information, see DHCF's Medicaid renewal meeting materials for 11/8/2023 here.
- ▶ Renewal figures for all months will increase as responses are received during the 90-day grace period.

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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 20
 - 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>at 5:30 PM on Thursday, December 14</u>.
- The District is continuing monthly Districtwide Trainings on Medicaid Renewal designed for stakeholders and anyone helping others with renewals – the eighth is at 12:00 PM on Friday, December 15.

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Save Time! Submit Your Renewal Online!



Medicaid beneficiaries may submit their completed renewals:

- <u>Online</u>: 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.
- 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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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 will be Thursday, December 14 @ 5:30 PM.
- The next Community Meeting on Medicaid Renewal will be <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>December 20, 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 Friday, December 15, 2023 @ 12:00 PM.
- 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 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
 - Note: 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

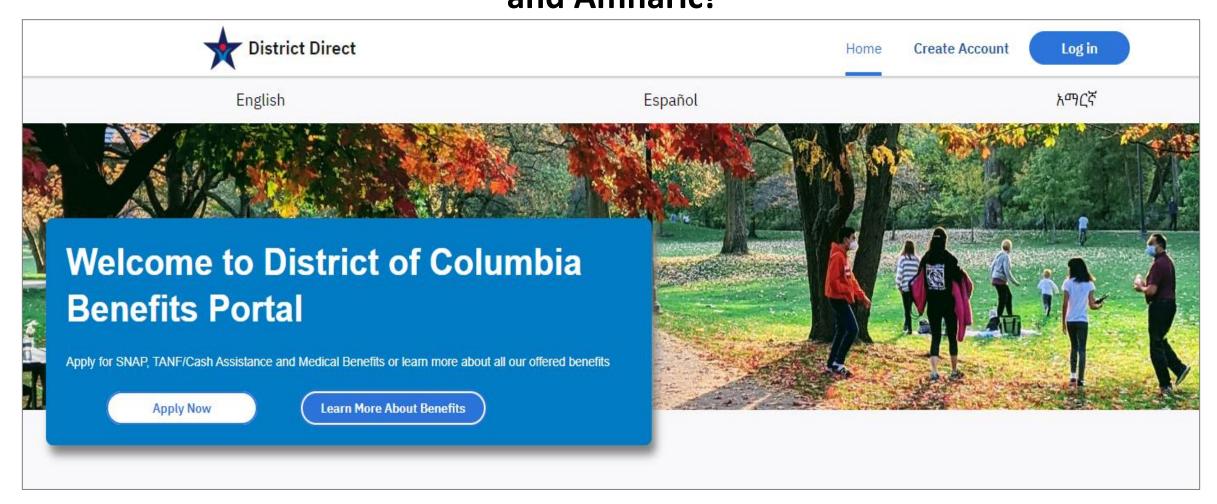
• DHCF is meeting with outreach staff, shelter case workers, and adult day centers that work with beneficiaries experiencing homelessness to ensure they are prepared to spread the word and assist beneficiaries with completing their renewals.

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

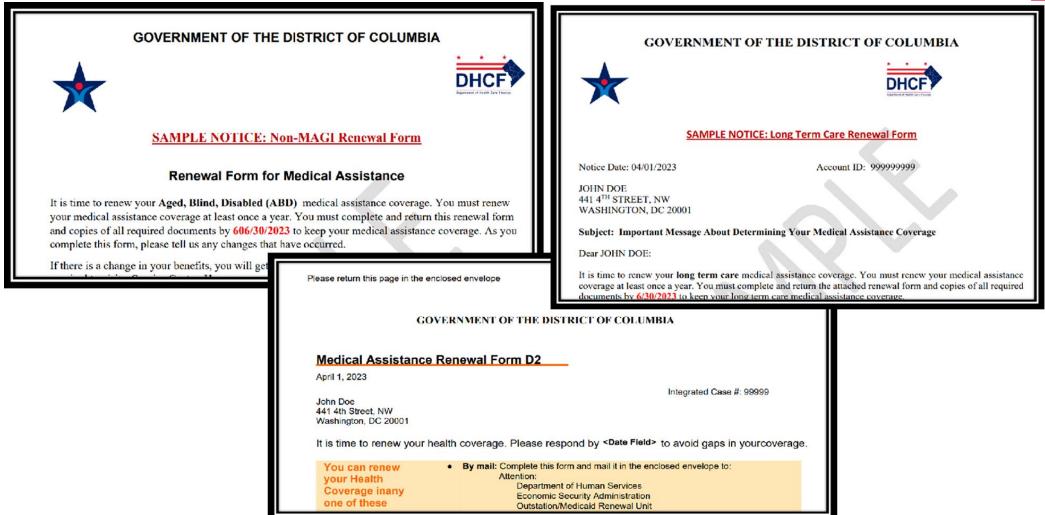






Appendix K: Look Out For These Renewal Documents in the Mail!



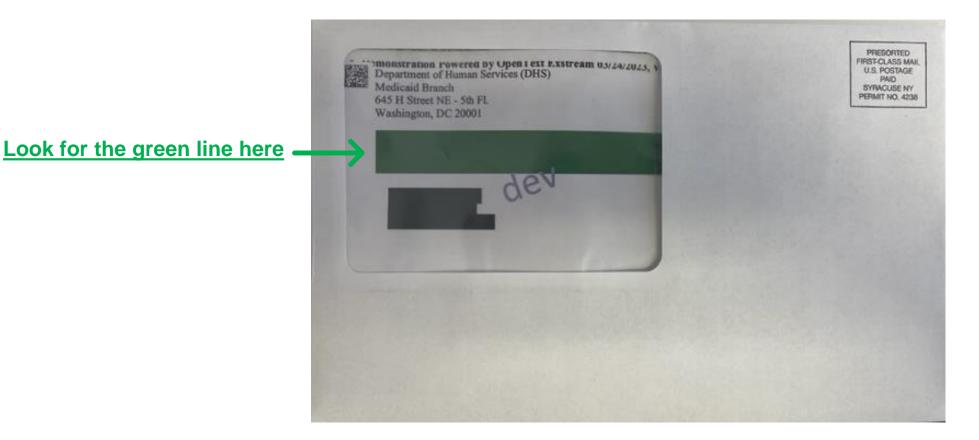


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Appendix L: Look Out For An Envelope that Looks Like This!





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