

Policy Profile

Medicaid Eligibility Post-COVID Public Health Emergency

-Submitted by Hanni Raley, Assistant Executive Director-

After two years of pandemic living, COVID numbers and hospitalizations trend toward an overall decrease, a cause for MUCH celebration! While this will change many peoples' daily lives and activities, it also signals a return to government processes and tasks that paused while the world grappled with the Public Health Emergency (PHE). Throughout the PHE, Medicaid did not verify eligibility or remove anyone from Medicaid coverage. However, states have now been asked to begin planning for how they might review all Medicaid recipients, verify eligibility, and direct those found ineligible to alternative coverage sources.

Though much planning is happening, the task is monumental, and there are plenty of opportunities for errors and mistakes. Failing to dot an "i" can be insignificant to most of us. But, the loss of health care coverage and the Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) that often accompany Medicaid for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) could be catastrophic. While we await the next step in Colorado's plan to support Medicaid members, the time is NOW to prepare yourself to ensure coverage continues.

Here are a few steps you can take to prepare:

- If you are receiving or supporting someone using Medicaid, make sure [Health First Colorado](#) and [Colorado PEAK](#) have your current address and contact information.
- Check your mail and mail back any Medicaid forms you receive. Reach out to your Advocate or a trusted professional if you do not understand what you received or what you should do with it.

- If you know you will no longer be eligible for [Medicaid](#), start looking at other coverage so you feel prepared to make another selection if/when the time comes.
- **DON'T WORRY!** Even if an error does happen and you or a loved one become disenrolled or your Medicaid coverage changes, you can appeal the decision.

The Arc of Aurora is following this closely and will provide additional information as soon as we have it! If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to your Advocate or Hanni Raley at 720-213-1420. In the meantime, let's celebrate the return to our "normal lives", however that may look for you!