

BE READY FOR YOUR
**MEDICAID
RENEWAL**



Continuous eligibility for
Medicaid has ended.
Annual renewals have restarted.

Are You an Older Adult Enrolled in Medicaid? Here's What to Know and Where to Go for Help with Obtaining Other Health Coverage.

Medicaid is a vital program supporting young and old recipients in need of continuing long-term care. Many older adults rely upon Medicaid coverage for skilled nursing home care or home- and community-based services.

The Department of Aging and Area Agencies on Aging are doing their part to assist the Shapiro Administration and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) in sharing important information to help keep older Pennsylvanians connected to life-sustaining health coverage.

What is happening with Medicaid eligibility?

Prior to and during the pandemic, DHS would send out annual notices and informational requests to Medicaid recipients to maintain eligibility. Shortly after the pandemic began, federal law put rules in place to allow individuals to remain enrolled in Medicaid even if they became ineligible based on regular eligibility criteria.

Due to a change in federal law, continuous eligibility has ended. Starting April 1, Medicaid recipients must again complete annual renewals to maintain their coverage. Renewals will take place gradually, over 12 months, and no one will be disenrolled without having a chance to complete a renewal.

[Information about when a person's annual renewal is scheduled can be found on COMPASS.](#)

Pennsylvanians can also use COMPASS to update their information.

It's very important to complete your renewal on time.

When you receive your renewal notice, it's very important to make sure the contact information is correct so you can receive timely updates about your benefits.

By completing the renewal on time, Medicaid recipients can either maintain Medicaid coverage or be directly connected to affordable coverage through Pennie[®], Pennsylvania's health insurance marketplace, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) if they have children under age 19.

Even if you do not think you are eligible for Medicaid anymore, completing the renewal is essential to avoid a disruption in coverage or care.

If you receive a denial notice and feel that it is inaccurate, you must file an appeal quickly to preserve eligibility in the Medicaid program.

There are four ways to complete your renewal when it is due.



Complete and return the forms by mailing them back in the provided envelope.



Call
1-866-550-4355.



Renew online
at COMPASS
www.dhs.pa.gov.



Visit any local
County Assistance
Office.

If you are no longer eligible for Medicaid, help is available.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)

The AAAs are prepared to support older adults in their communities. The AAAs can provide education and resources for completing Medical Assistance renewal documents. You can also call for information on alternative health care programs and how to access them. To find your local Area Agency on Aging, visit www.aging.pa.gov/AAA or call the Department of Aging at 717-783-1550.

PACE Program

You can call the Department of Aging's PACE program at 1-866-712-2060 for assistance with getting different health care coverage along with prescription costs through other coverage plans such as Medicare Part D and Part D Extra Help.

PA MEDI

Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight (PA MEDI) counselors can answer questions and provide unbiased, easy-to-understand information about getting Medicare, Medicare Supplement Insurance, Medicaid, and Long-Term Care Insurance. You can learn more by visiting www.aging.pa.gov/medicare-counseling, or by calling 1-800-783-7067.

Pennie®

Pennie®, Pennsylvania's health insurance marketplace, is the official place to get financial savings to help lower the cost of coverage and care. If you do not yet qualify for Medicare, Pennie is a great option for high-quality health coverage. Pennie's Open Enrollment Period runs November 1 to January 15. However, you can enroll throughout the year if you experience a qualifying life event, such as losing Medicaid. Learn more at pennie.com or call 1-844-844-8040.

CHIP

For grandparents raising grandchildren and other kinship caregivers, Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) may provide health care coverage for children or teens who are uninsured and ineligible for Medical Assistance. You can learn more by visiting www.dhs.pa.gov/CHIP, or by calling 1-800-986-KIDS (5437).

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Pennsylvania's Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the state's advocate for older adults living in long-term care facilities, can assist residents with referrals to other health insurance resources. Call 717-783-8975 or visit www.aging.pa.gov/ombudsman.

For more information about the upcoming changes and key messages to share with older adults, go to www.dhs.pa.gov/phe.