

For Immediate Release

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## **DCH Releases Medicaid Redetermination Data for January 2024 and Unwinding-to-Date**

**ATLANTA** (March 5, 2024) – In Georgia’s ninth month of the federally mandated Medicaid redetermination process, the state continues using implemented improvements to minimize the number of procedural terminations and maximize the number of ex parte renewals. A breakdown of the data is as follows:

- In December, Georgia initiated eligibility checks for 119,437 Georgians with Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® with renewals due at the end of January.
- At the close of the month, 55,033 (46%) of these Georgians were renewed for Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® coverage, while 46,897 (39%) were found ineligible (for example, due to changed circumstances or lack of response to state requests for information).
- 17,507 (15%) individuals with December renewals remain pending and will retain coverage while their eligibility is determined.

**Ex Parte Renewals:** In December and January, the State was able to automatically renew 39,008 (33%) individuals through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)-approved ex parte process of using currently available eligibility data, including data from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Additionally, over 85,000 individuals with January renewal deadlines were successfully renewed in prior months, which brings the total number of ex parte renewals for January renewals to over 124,000.

*Guidance for Members:* The ex parte process requires no action from members, and these members did not receive a renewal packet. Members who receive ex parte renewal will have their coverage renewed for another year. Members who are no longer eligible for SNAP or TANF or who cannot be renewed through the ex parte process will go through redetermination manually. Members who have been denied for SNAP or TANF benefits should not assume that they are no longer eligible for Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids® and should complete redetermination paperwork requests.

**Pre-Populated Form Renewals:** Georgia sent redetermination notices to over 80,400 members in December. These individuals had until the end of January to provide the State with updated information to retain their coverage. As of the end of January, more than 40,600 completed forms were returned to the State.

With the exception of members who are auto-renewed through the ex-parte process, the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) sends all Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® members a renewal notice via mail and/or email based on an individual’s preference about 45 days before their redetermination deadline. Individuals also receive a reminder notice 15 days before their redetermination deadline. In addition, Georgia is reaching out to individuals through other methods, including:

- SMS text messages at 30 and 10 days before their redetermination deadline and reminders via phone calls.
- Care Management Organizations (CMOs) partnering with the State to conduct additional member outreach.
- Any individual who had their renewal packet returned to the State due to an invalid address is held as pending until additional outreach can be completed.

*Guidance for Members:* Members who are late in turning in their paperwork have up to 90 days to submit their materials to re-start the redetermination process and potentially retain their coverage. After 90 days, members who believe they are still eligible for coverage will have to re-apply for Medicaid.

**Terminations of Coverage:** 8,942 individuals (7% of all individuals with January renewal deadlines and 19% of all terminations) were determined ineligible for Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids based on their response to the State's request for additional data and were terminated from coverage. 37,955 individuals were procedurally terminated. This accounts for 32% of all individuals with January renewal deadlines and 81% of all terminations. Additionally, the State has data that over 9,900 of the individuals who were procedurally terminated likely would no longer have been eligible due to several factors, including: increased income\*, changed household composition, aging out of coverage, and moving out of state. This additional data decreases the rate of procedural terminations to 58% of total terminations and 23% of all redeterminations. Between May and October 2023, nearly 126,000 former Georgia Medicaid/CHIP beneficiaries enrolled in marketplace plans, per national CMS data<sup>1</sup>.

*Guidance for Members:* Members whose income exceeds state eligibility thresholds and who do not have employer-sponsored healthcare may be eligible for the new [Pathways to Coverage™](#) program or they can explore [Georgia Access](#), a new state-based exchange on the federal platform.

\*At the start of the pandemic, Georgia's unemployment rate rose to a high of 12.4% in April 2020. In December 2023, Georgia's unemployment rate was 3.4%, indicating a strong labor market with more Georgians eligible for employer health insurance plans.

**Unwinding To Date:** Since the beginning of the Medicaid redetermination process in April 2023, the State has renewed coverage for nearly 924,000 individuals.

- **CMS-Reported Cases at End-of-Month:** Georgia reported to CMS over 517,000 Georgians that have had their Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® coverage renewed.
- **Actions on Pending Cases:** In February 2024, Georgia provided an additional updated report to CMS. These additional reports account for actions taken by the state within the 90 days following the end of the reporting period for each month. Cumulatively, updated reports showed increased renewals for all months from May through October. Of the 232,806 renewals that remained pending at the end of the May through October renewal periods, the State processed over 172,673 (74%) of these renewals within three months following the end of the original renewal month. Of the individuals that were pending at the end of their renewal months:
  - Nearly 109,500 individuals (47%) were renewed for coverage;
  - Nearly 57,200 individuals (25%) were found ineligible and were programmatically closed;
  - Over 5,900 individuals (2%) were procedurally closed; and
  - Approximately 60,100 individuals (26%) remained pending after three months.
- However, the CMS reports do not include an additional 296,500 individuals who have retained coverage through other actions:
  - **Additional Early Ex Parte Renewals:** Over 182,000 individuals due in the May through December renewals periods that were renewed via the ex parte process prior to their renewal windows. An additional 85,000 individuals due in January were renewed via early ex parte as well.
  - **Reconsiderations after Procedural Closure:** Over 18,500 individuals who submitted their renewal within the 90-day reconsideration window and were subsequently renewed with retroactive coverage.
  - **Additional Actions on Pending Cases:** Nearly 11,000 individuals who were renewed after the end of their renewal periods but have not yet been captured in a report submitted to CMS.

**Background on Redetermination:** The Medicaid redetermination process is the result of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 which requires all states to resume annual Medicaid eligibility checks after a three-year pause during the pandemic. States were required to begin these "redeterminations" at least by April 2023 and finish the process by May 2024, reporting on their progress monthly to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. To further transparency in its reporting, Georgia has created a monthly [dashboard](#) of required CMS data.

Medicaid coverage continues while renewals are processed, even if processing continues beyond the renewal date. Members can submit updated proof of eligibility up to 90 days after their termination date. If they are determined eligible, their coverage will be retroactively reinstated. Members who feel they have been incorrectly denied coverage—due to incorrect information or for another reason—can appeal a denial up to 30 days after they receive their redetermination decision and elect to retain their coverage during the appeals process.

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<sup>1</sup> [HealthCare.gov Marketplace Medicaid Unwinding Report](#)

Since September 2022, DCH, DHS, other state agencies, and community partners have been working to educate and mobilize Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® members through a statewide public information campaign. The “Stay Informed. Stay Covered.” campaign includes TV and radio ads in English and Spanish, social media outreach, digital advertising, bus shelter signage, billboards, media outreach, regular partner briefings, informational videos, and community education resources in seven languages.

More information on Medicaid redetermination for members, their loved ones, and partners and providers can be found on the State’s official microsite for the campaign [staycovered.ga.gov](https://staycovered.ga.gov).

DCH and DHS encourage Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® members to visit [gateway.ga.gov](https://gateway.ga.gov) to find their redetermination date as soon as possible and to respond to requests for information from official communications from the State in a timely manner. Members can make sure they can be reached with information about their Medicaid coverage by checking or updating their contact information through one of three ways:

1. Online at Georgia DHS’ benefits website: [gateway.ga.gov](https://gateway.ga.gov)
2. In person at their local DFCS office: [dfcs.georgia.gov/locations](https://dfcs.georgia.gov/locations)
3. By phone at 1-877-GA-DHS-GO (1-877-423-4746) or 711 for the hearing impaired

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