

December 7, 2022

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

***SENT VIA EMAIL***

Dear Governor DeSantis,

We, the undersigned, call upon the state of Florida to help ensure an orderly approach to the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE). Recovery from the pandemic has been due in significant part to Floridians maintaining health coverage for themselves and their children.

We are united in asking for a published plan — like those, for example, released by [North Carolina](#), [Utah](#), and [Oklahoma](#) — to ensure that qualified Floridians maintain their Medicaid coverage and those whose circumstances have changed are assisted in finding alternative coverage. We ask this on behalf of Floridians enrolled in Medicaid, especially the 1.7 million people who have enrolled since the pandemic began in March 2020 and never gone through redetermination. Over 525,000 of these people are children aged 0-18. We need a robust state plan to ensure that eligibility can be correctly determined for every person on Medicaid and assistance is given to those who are no longer eligible so they can enroll in Marketplace plans or KidCare. Even with an extensive state outreach plan, thousands of Floridians will fall into the “coverage gap” at the end of PHE unwinding and need to be connected with local safety net resources.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [recommends](#) that states take up to 12 months to return to pre-pandemic operations for Medicaid renewals. This time would allow for Florida to ensure that eligible beneficiaries maintain coverage and have seamless transitions to other forms of coverage if they no longer qualify for Medicaid. Having a plan in place would:

- Afford Florida’s Department of Children and Families critical time to hire and train the staff needed to manage the more than 5 million redeterminations;
- Provide a roadmap for a multimedia, multimodal, and multilingual outreach and education campaign as other states have done (see, e.g. [toolkit](#) from Illinois on updating addresses);
- Provide needed time for recipient outreach to assist them in redetermination or support to seek alternate means of insuring themselves and their families;
- Help avoid unnecessary coverage losses for eligible individuals who have moved since the pandemic and have not updated their contact information;

- Minimize potential loss of coverage of eligible individuals due to the high administrative burdens of redetermination; and
- Ensure continued receipt of the funding (FMAP) increase under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which has saved the state nearly \$2 billion since the start of the PHE.

The undersigned organizations stand ready to help develop a plan and create and disseminate informational materials to Medicaid recipients statewide.

Sincerely,

Florida Policy Institute  
 Florida Health Justice Project  
 Allegany Franciscan Ministries  
 Black Health Commission  
 Catalyst Miami  
 Center for Psychological Growth  
 Central Florida Jobs with Justice  
 Community Foundation of Collier County  
 Community Foundation of Sarasota County  
 Disability Rights Florida  
 Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc.  
 Florida Council of Churches  
 Florida Covering Kids & Families  
 Florida Legal Services, Inc.  
 Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition  
 Florida Philanthropic Network  
 Florida Psychological Association  
 Florida's Children First  
 Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La Inc.  
 Health Foundation of South Florida  
 Hispanic Unity of Florida  
 Institute for LGBT Health and Wellbeing  
 Jacksonville Area Legal Aid  
 League of Women Voters of Florida  
 Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
 National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
 Palm Health Foundation  
 Pastors for Florida Children  
 PFLAG South Miami  
 Power U Center for Social Change  
 Progress Florida Education Institute  
 St. Johns County Legal Aid  
 Tampa Bay Abortion Fund  
 The Mental Health Association of Central Florida  
 Together for Hope  
 UnidosNow, Inc.

United Activision Media LLC  
Winter Park Health Foundation  
Women's Resource Center of Manatee  
Women's March Florida

CC: Secretary Shevaun Harris, Department of Children and Families  
Secretary Simone Marstiller, Agency for Health Care Administration  
Senator Kathleen Passidomo, Senate President  
Representative Paul Renner, Speaker of the House