

## There is Help for Your Patients Who May Lose Medicaid or CHIP Benefits

During the COVID-19 federal Public Health Emergency (PHE), the Florida Department of Children and Families stopped checking eligibility for Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Individuals were not disenrolled in these programs during the PHE. In April 2023, the regular monthly process of verifying those who qualify for Medicaid or CHIP benefits restarted. As a result, thousands of Floridians will lose their Medicaid or CHIP coverage.

If your patients and/or their loved ones lose coverage, they will qualify for a special enrollment period (SEP) and may want to enroll in an Affordable Care Act (ACA) plan. Financial help may be available for them to help pay the monthly cost of this new plan.

You can help your affected patients and their family or friends by ensuring they know about this transition. Here are some of the important points to share:

- Special Enrollment runs from March 31, 2023, through July 31, 2024
- Once your patient applies for Marketplace coverage, they have 60 days to enroll in a plan
- ACA plans may have different benefits than government plans. Remind your patients to confirm you are in the plan they are enrolling in. To find out they can ask you or visit [Floridablue.com](https://www.floridablue.com) and select *Find a Doctor* in the top margin.
- Print the flyer, **Get Covered Florida** ([English](#), [Spanish](#), [Creole](#)), for your patients. This contains helpful information to consider when losing Medicaid or CHIP benefits.

### Helpful Support for Floridians from a Community Specialist

Florida Blue community specialists can help individuals and families find available support such as food, transportation programs, financial assistance, and more. There is no charge for our specialists' help, and a person need not be a Florida Blue member. More information is available in the **Community Specialist flyer** ([English](#), [Spanish](#), [Creole](#)) flyer which you can print for your patients.

### Other Individual and Family Programs

In addition to an ACA Marketplace plan, other programs may be available, including:

- **Florida KidCare**: Low-cost insurance for children up to age 18. Call 1-888-540-5437.
- **Medically Needy Program**: A program that allows Medicaid coverage after a monthly "share of costs" is met. Call 1-850-300-4323.