

Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council Quarterly Report

Bureau of Health Services Financing

Louisiana Department of Health

July 2024



Medicaid News and Updates

Ending of Continuous Medicaid/Medicaid Unwind

The 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act signed into law on December 30, 2022, included fiscal and programmatic impacts on the Medicaid program, including the termination of continuous coverage established in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). As a result, Medicaid resumed reviewing eligibility for all 2 million-plus members in May 2023 as part of the “Medicaid Unwind” effort to return Medicaid operations to pre-COVID processes.

Some eligibility reviews may be completed without contacting the member by using information from electronic databases. Many, however, require members to respond to mail. Members who are closed because of a failure to respond to the renewal packet have 90 days after their closure date to complete their renewal and reinstate their coverage, if they are still eligible. They can do this a number of ways:

- Online at Medicaid’s self-service portal ([MyMedicaid.la.gov](https://www.mymedicaid.la.gov)). An account log in and password is required.
- By submitting their completed renewal packet to Medicaid by email (MyMedicaid@la.gov), by fax (877-523-2987), by mail (Louisiana Medicaid, PO Box 91283 Baton Rouge, LA 70821) or in person at a regional Medicaid office (find a regional Medicaid office online at www.ldh.la.gov/medicaidoffices).
- By calling Medicaid at 1-888-342-6207.

Medicaid completed its unwinding eligibility redeterminations in May 2024. Going forward, Medicaid members will be routinely reassessed each year to confirm their eligibility.

Resumption of Wage Checks

Louisiana Medicaid resumed quarterly eligibility wage checks in May, using Louisiana Workforce Commission data to verify that Medicaid members continue to meet income requirements. Going forward, these checks will occur quarterly. Wage checks were previously paused during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Letters were mailed to members who needed to verify income to continue their coverage. To prevent potential loss of healthcare coverage, Medicaid urges all members to respond to any mail they receive from Medicaid asking for more information. Medicaid requests that stakeholders reinforce this messaging to your networks to ensure that those eligible retain their coverage.

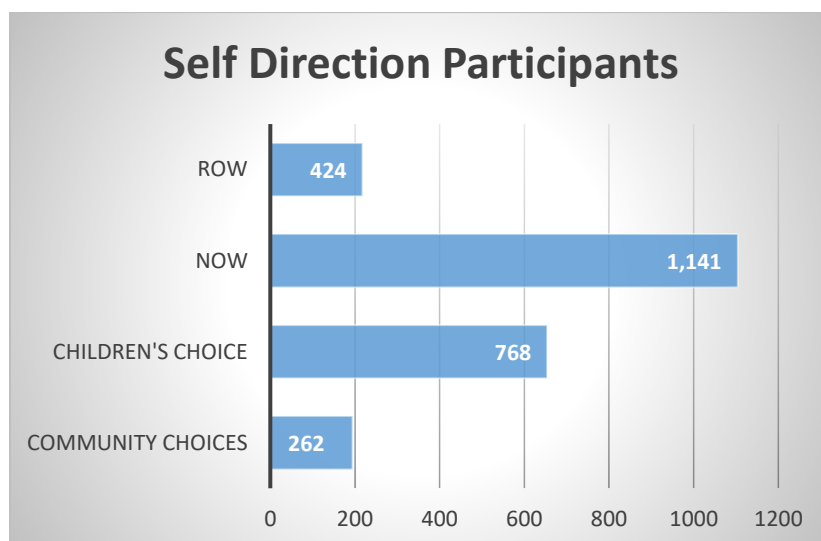
Please note: pregnant women, children, individuals in an active renewal period, and members in long-term care or waiver programs are excluded from the quarterly income checks.

Programs and Services

Self-Direction

Self-Direction is a service delivery option for some waiver participants which allows them, or an authorized representative, to become the employer of the people they choose to hire to provide in-home supports. As the employer, participants or their authorized representative are responsible for recruiting, training, supervising, and managing the people they choose to hire. This option gives participants the most control over their supports but also requires the most responsibility. Self-Direction is based on the principles of self-determination, which means that you have the ability or right to make your own decisions. As of May 31, 2024, there were 2,595 individuals enrolled in the Self-Direction waiver service option. See below participant breakdown by waiver:

Figure 1. Self-Direction Enrollment by Waiver as of May 2024



ROW, NOW, Children's Choice, and Community Choices waiver participants who are interested in self-direction are all offered Freedom of Choice (FOC) to select a fiscal employer agent (FEA): Acumen or Morning Sun. Currently, Acumen provides FEA services to 77.4% of those self-directing their services and Morning Sun provides FEA services to 22.6%.

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/subhome/67> for additional information on the self-direction program.

Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option/TEFRA

The Act 421 Children's Medicaid Option (Act 421-CMO) or TEFRA program provides Medicaid eligibility to children under the age of 19 who have disabilities and meet institutional level of care

requirements, regardless of parental income and resources. To qualify, children must have a disability that is recognized under the definition utilized in the Supplemental Security Income program of the Social Security Administration and must meet basic Medicaid and institutional level-of-care requirements. Additionally, their care at home must cost less than care provided in an institution. More than 2,300 children have been approved for Medicaid coverage through this program who would not otherwise be eligible since its implementation in 2022.

Table 1. Act 421-CMO/TEFRA Application and Enrollment Data as of June 2024

Applications Received	
Total Applications Received	5,283
Applications Received in 2024	1,100
Applications Approved	
Total Number Approved	2,328
Number Approved in 2024	557
Currently Enrolled	1,912

You may visit <http://www.ldh.la.gov/Act421> for additional information on the Act 421-CMO/TEFRA program. You may also email us at 421-CMO@LA.GOV or call at 1-800-230-0690.

Money Follows the Person

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program is a federal grant administered by OAAS, OCDD, and Medicaid to assist in transitioning eligible individuals out of institutional settings so they may receive home and community-based services in their homes. As of June 1, 2024, more than 4,200 individuals have transitioned out of qualified institutions (hospitals, nursing facilities and supports and services centers) through the MFP program in Louisiana. In calendar year 2024, 97 participants have transitioned under the MFP program.

You may visit MyPlaceLouisiana.com for additional information on the MFP/My Place program.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy Services

Behavior analysis is based on a scientific study of how people learn. By doing research, techniques have been developed that increase useful behavior (including communication) and reduce harmful behavior. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy uses these techniques. ABA is helpful in treating autism spectrum disorders.

Table 2. ABA Utilization for May 2024

	ACLA	AETNA	Healthy Blue	Humana	LHCC	UHC	TOTALS
Number of CCMs with ASD	1,197	226	436	10	727	492	3,088
Number of PAs Requested for CCMs with ASD	21	4	38	10	56	35	164
Number of PAs approved for CCMs with ASD	21	4	38	10	56	35	164
Number of PAs denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Claims Paid for CCMs with ASD	\$283,496	\$104,311	\$328,255	\$16,923	\$702,077	\$494,856	\$1,929,920

PA = Prior Authorization

CCMs = Chisholm Class Members

ASD = Autism Spectrum Disorder

You may visit <https://ldh.la.gov/page/applied-behavior-analysis> for additional information on ABA services.

EPSDT Support Coordination

Medicaid eligible children/youth under the age of 21 on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry or those meeting criteria for children with special needs are eligible to receive EPSDT Support Coordination services. This service assists beneficiaries with gaining access to the full range of needed services including medical, social, educational and other services. This includes all services that beneficiaries under age 21 may be entitled to receive through the EPSDT benefit. The support coordinator reviews all available services and assists with making referrals for the services they may be eligible to receive. These may include services such as medical equipment, occupational, physical or speech therapy, personal care service, home health and EPSDT screening. Support coordinators conduct follow-up visits or phone calls monthly to ensure beneficiaries are receiving all authorized services.

As of June 2024, there are approximately 800 children/youth receiving EPSDT Support Coordination services.