

Reaching Out to American Indian and Alaska Native People about Medicaid & CHIP Renewals



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) wants to make sure Tribal citizens continue to have health care coverage whether that's through Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare, [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) (through the Affordable Care Act), or employer-sponsored coverage. We need your help as a trusted voice to help share information on yearly Medicaid and CHIP renewals. You can use this resource to help share important messages about what steps parents, families and individuals should take to ensure they remain covered.

How often do Tribal citizens with Medicaid or CHIP need to renew their coverage?

States check every year to find out if people with Medicaid or CHIP coverage still qualify for coverage. States will use the information they have to decide if a person or their family member(s) will keep their Medicaid or CHIP coverage. If the state needs more information, they will send a letter to that person electronically or in the mail. The person may also receive a call from their state Medicaid or CHIP agency.

What can YOU do to help Tribal citizens renew their Medicaid or CHIP coverage each year?

Partners like you can help make sure that Tribal citizens enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP complete these steps each year:

- 1. Update their contact information with their state Medicaid or CHIP agency.** This includes current mailing address, phone number, email, or other contact information.
- 2. Check their mail and open any mail from their state Medicaid or CHIP agency.** The letter will let someone know if they need to complete a renewal form to find out if they're still eligible for Medicaid or CHIP.
- 3. Complete their renewal form (if they get one).** Fill out the form and return it to the state Medicaid or CHIP agency right away to help avoid a gap in coverage.
 - Even if a parent is no longer eligible for Medicaid, their child may still be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. It is important to **always** return the renewal form so the state can see if a person or anyone in their family qualifies for coverage.

If someone is no longer eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, they should check if they can get coverage through their employer, through the Marketplace at [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), or through Medicare.

What resources are available to share with Tribal citizens enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP?

CMS has a variety of resources to help raise awareness about renewing Medicaid and CHIP each year and other coverage options if Tribal citizens are no longer eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, including:

- Tribal Social Media Images ([getting ready for renewals](#), [losing Medicaid/CHIP coverage](#), and [fraud awareness](#))
- [Medicaid Basics for Partners: Enrollment, Eligibility, and Renewals](#)
- [Partner Tip Sheet](#)
- [HealthCare.gov Postcard](#)
- [Health Care Options Factsheet](#)

The full list of resources can be found on the [Medicaid and CHIP Renewals Outreach and Educational Resources](#) webpage at [Medicaid.gov/renewals-outreach-education](https://www.Medicaid.gov/renewals-outreach-education). Resources can be downloaded or printed and shared broadly.

What strategies can I use to spread the word in my community?

- Partner with enrollment assisters at Indian health care providers, community leaders, Head Start programs, schools, cultural centers, and other community-based organizations in your area to share culturally and linguistically appropriate materials and social media messages and host events.
- Share messages in your community's native language on radio, tribal newspapers, community boards, postal bulletins, and social media.
- Hand out flyers or other print materials that are simple and clear and include pictures or graphics.
- Share information at tribal events and community activities, such as health fairs, powwows, cultural events, and school events.

Remind tribal citizens to protect themselves from fraud. A state Medicaid office will never threaten you with legal action or ask for payment for you to keep or qualify for Medicaid or CHIP coverage. Avoid scams and contact your local Indian Health Provider for more on how to spot or report fraud.

