



Date: October 14, 2021

To: Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)
Case Management Agencies (CMAs)
CLASS Direct Service Agencies (DSAs)
Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) Program Providers
Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Program Providers
Texas Home Living (TxHmL) Program Providers
Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities (LIDDAs)

Subject: Information Letter No. 2021-47
Assisting Individuals Whose Supplemental Security Income is
Terminated

In Texas, individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits are automatically eligible for Medicaid. Under normal circumstances, termination of SSI benefits would result in the loss of Medicaid coverage. However, following the declaration of a federal public health emergency (PHE) on January 27, 2020, federal guidance allows the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to maintain Medicaid coverage for individuals who lose their SSI benefits. If there are any additional changes to Medicaid coverage, HHSC will let individuals know at the appropriate time.

Throughout the PHE, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has continued to terminate SSI benefits for individuals who do not meet the SSI eligibility criteria. When the continuous Medicaid coverage period ends, these individuals will lose their Medicaid coverage unless their SSI benefits are reinstated or they are found eligible for Medicaid under other criteria. If Medicaid coverage ends for an individual enrolled in a waiver program, their waiver program services will also end.

HHSC is notifying individuals about their eligibility status.

HHSC has sent a copy of the attached letter to individuals enrolled in a Medicaid waiver program who have lost SSI benefits during the PHE. The letter tells them:

- They are no longer eligible for Medicaid because they have lost their SSI benefits, but they still have Medicaid coverage due to the current PHE.

- How they may be able to keep their Medicaid coverage by getting their SSI benefits reinstated or by qualifying for Medicaid under other criteria.

HHSC will continue its outreach to these individuals and is anticipating requests for assistance from individuals or representative payees.

Help individuals apply to keep their Medicaid benefits.

Service coordinators and case managers should encourage individuals and representative payees to apply for SSI or Medicaid coverage so an eligibility determination can be made. If requested, service coordinators and case managers must assist these individuals and their representative payees with:

- Applying to have SSI reinstated by the SSA.
- Applying for Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities using Form H1200 and Form 1746-A.

Service coordinators and case managers should also encourage individuals to report changes in their circumstances to HHSC, even during the PHE, to ensure contact and eligibility information remains accurate. These changes may include changes of address, phone number, or pregnancy status. Individuals may report changes online at www.yourtexasbenefits.com, by calling 2-1-1, or by contacting a local HHSC benefits office.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Fabián Aguirre
Director IDD Program Eligibility and Support
Medicaid and CHIP Services

Encl: Attachment 1

[Manifest Keyline]

To the addressee or guardian of:

[DRS] <HOH First Name> <HOH Last Name>

[VER] <ADDR_STREET_2>

[LTR] <ADDR_STREET_1>

<CITY>, <STATE> <ZIPCode>

[IMB Postal Barcode]

<Date of Letter>

You have been getting Medicaid in Texas because you were getting Supplemental Security Income (SSI) through the Social Security Administration, and current federal guidance has allowed Texas to continue providing you Medicaid coverage during the federal public health emergency declared on Jan. 27, 2020. The Social Security Administration told Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) that your SSI benefits have ended and you are no longer receiving SSI.

You have kept your Medicaid because of the public health emergency. You will get a notice from HHSC when your Medicaid is ending. To continue getting Medicaid coverage, you must either:

- **Have your SSI reinstated through the Social Security Administration.**
- **Apply with HHS and be found eligible for Medicaid coverage under another category.**

If your Medicaid coverage ends, your [Waiver Program] services will end.

If you want to keep getting Medicaid coverage **and waiver services, apply by [30 calendar days after <Date of Letter>]**. Make sure to give proof of all income. There are three ways to apply. Pick only one:

- **Apply online.** Go to yourtexasbenefits.com, log in and select “Apply” to apply for new benefits or select “Manage” to see details about your case.
- **Submit a paper application.** Go to yourtexasbenefits.com, scroll to the bottom of the page and select “Get a Paper Form.” Then find the item for form H1200 and select either “Send By Mail” to have it mailed to you or “Download” to print it. You can also call 2-1-1 and ask for a paper application form to be mailed to you. Complete the application and return it by mail (Texas Health and Human Services Commission, P.O. Box 149024, Austin, Texas, 78714-9024) or fax (877-447-2839). Don’t forget to sign the form.
- **Apply by phone.** Call 2-1-1, select your language and select Option 2 to apply.

Apply for benefits by [30 calendar days after <Date of Letter>] to find out if you will keep getting Medicaid coverage **and [Waiver Program]** when the federal public health emergency ends.

Questions?

Medicaid: Call **2-1-1**. If you can’t call 2-1-1 on your phone, call **877-541-7905**. Both numbers are free to call.

Social Security: Call **800-772-1213**. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call **800-325-0778 (TTY)**.

[If <Waiver1>]

HCS Waiver Services: Call your HCS program provider. If you need assistance contacting your HCS program provider, call your Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA) service coordinator.

[If <Waiver2>]

TxHmL Waiver Services: Call your TxHmL program provider. If you need assistance contacting your TxHmL program provider, call your Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA) service coordinator.

[If <Waiver3>]

CLASS Waiver Services: Call your CLASS Case Management Agency (CMA) case manager. If you need assistance contacting your CLASS CMA case manager, call your CLASS Direct Service Agency (DSA) provider.

[If <Waiver4>]

DBMD Waiver Services: Call your DBMD program provider case manager. If you need assistance contacting your case manager, call your DBMD program provider.

[If <Waiver5>]

YES Waiver Services: Call your Wraparound facilitator. If you need assistance contacting your Wraparound facilitator, call your Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA).

****Print rules****

This letter contains variable text based on values for the element. See table below:

Element	[Waiver Program]
<Waiver1>	Home and Community-based Services (HCS)
<Waiver2>	Texas Home Living (TxHmL)
<Waiver3>	Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)
<Waiver4>	Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD)
<Waiver5>	Youth Empowerment Services (YES)
<Waiver6>	STAR Kids Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP)
<Waiver7>	STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)