

Children's Health Coverage Coalition & Outreach, Eligibility and Technical Assistance Workgroup Meeting Agenda

Friday, May 20th, 2022 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting

Meeting Chair: Stacey Pogue - Every Texan

CHCC Agenda

11:00 A.M 11:05 A.M.	Welcome & Introductions		
11:05 A.M 11:15 A.M.	Texas Simplified Application Project (TSAP) Summary • Karla Martinez - Every Texan		
11:15 A.M 11:20 A.M.	Federal Fix Updates • Adrienne Lloyd - Children's Defense Fund - TX		
11:20 A.M 11:25 A.M.	1115 Waiver UpdateSara Gonzalez - TexasHospital Association		
11:25 A.M 11:45 A.M.	School Readiness Dashboard • David Feigen - Texans Care for Children		
11:45 A.M 12:15 P.M.	HHSC Ambassador Tool-Kit Walkthrough • Rachel Shumaker - HHSC		

	• https://www.hhs.texas.gov/se https://www.hhs.texas.gov/se https://www.hhs.texas.gov/se https://www.hhs.texas.gov/se
12:15 P.M 12:30 P.M.	HB 133 Waiver Amendment • Diana Forester - Texans Care for Children
OTA Agenda	
12:30 P.M 2:00 P.M.	End of the PHE Discussion • HHSC



Children's Health Coverage Coalition and Outreach, Eligibility and Technical Assitance Workgroup Meeting

Friday, May 20th 2022 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

On Video Conference Call:

Stacey Pogue

Linda Litzinger

Anne Dunkelberg

Diana Forester

Adrienne Lloyd

Karla Martinez

Alison McHorse

David Feigen

Betsy Coats

Preston Poole

Bryan Mares

Decrecia Limbrick

Stephanie Mace

Sara Gonzales

Christina Hoppe

Diane Rhodes

Daniela De Luna

Traci Torres

Anna Stelter

Patrick Bressette

Denise Gomez

Clayton Travis

Lucy Blevins

Lucy Dicvins

Helen Kent Davis

Brittany McAllister

Brooke Burnside

Erika Ramirez

Erin Cusack



Michelle Tijerina
Tex Protects
Brittney Taylor-Ross
Sebastien Laroche
Maya Peterson
Rachel Shumaker
Gina Carter
Hilary Davis
Byron French
Valerie Mayes
Graciela Camarena
Rachel Moyer-Trimyer
Tom Kimpel
Molly Lester

Meeting Chair: Stacey Pogue - Every Texan Meeting Scribe: Myles Anderson - Every Texan



CHCC AGENDA

I. Texas Simplified Application Project (TSAP) Summary

[See Slides]

II. Federal Updates

- The main strategy right now is to push for the advanced premium tax credits because that is the only opening for the coverage gap to happen.
- Family glitch comment period are due June 6th.

III. 1115 Waiver Update

Sara Gonzalez:

- Short-term financial relief with latest CMS decision. In June, we should have realtime add-ons of supplemental payments flowing for new claims. Old claims should be reprocessed by August or September.
- DPP Year 1 Approved. We need federal approval by July for year 2 for there to be no interruption of funding in Sept. Year 2 up in air right now.
- OIG Audit Uncertainty: Looking at 2019 data via "desk" audit, though scope can expand. We expect a final report inAugust 2023.

IV. Texas School Readiness Dashboard

[See Slides]

V. HHSC Ambassador Toolkit

[See Slides]

VI. HB 133 Waiver Amendment

• HHSC will be having a public meeting notice for this waiver amendment on June 9th



OTA AGENDA (1:28)

I. Update to changes on Periodic Income Checks in Children's Medicaid

• PICs used to happen in months 5, 6, 7 and 8. Will now just be in month 6. PICs disabled for PHE, and programming done once PHE ends and PICs are enabled.

II. Discussion on End of the Public Health Emergency

- Please share informational notices and renewal notice that will go out as we approach the end and at the end of the PHE
 - Once the PHE ends, we will send out a general notice to current Medicaid recipients. There is language to respond to HHSC if needed and that HHSC will continue coverage until they are finished with the recipients case.
- When is the earliest date the renewal notices will go and earliest response due date (under current timeline)
 - The earliest date the renewal notices will go out is the a month following the 60-day notice
 - Earliest response due date is 30 days.
- Please share specific outreach messages and outreach channels that HHSC will be using at the end of the PHE.
- How will HHSC use direct client texting for outreach
 - HHSC is currently looking at ways to leverage our texting technology to inform clients on what's happening. Text or texting being considered for clients who've opted into electronic notices.
- What steps are needed to transition kids from Medicaid to CHIP? Will systems for premium payments and other steps have capacity?
 - Children will be automatically be tested for other programs. If it's found that the child is no longer eligible for any program, they will be referred to the market place. HHSC gives clients additional time to pay CHIP premiums when kids transition from Medicaid to CHIP.
- Does HHSC have any updates on making updating addresses easier for clients? Is HHSC able to remove it from Option 2 queue? For the current system that directs clients to HHSC clerks when they call 2-1-1 for an address change: how is that working? How does a client access that option in the phone tree?
 - HHSC is exploring the option for us to receive addresses from MCO's, as well as using the National Change of Address.

- In terms of the 2-1-1 interactive voice response technology, to change addresses.
 - When calling 2-1-1, after selecting their language, the caller selects option 2 and validate who they are by SSN or DOB
 - Once validated, the client will then select option 3 for the change of address
 - If they are not validated, the client will select option 4 to be sent to a live agent
- The 2-1-1 call tree can't be modified without modifying the entire system, so we are looking at the 2-1-1 system to see if we can add extra options to the tree and other avenues.
- What happens after a renewal packet is returned for a bad address? What are the next steps for contacting the client.
 - First, HHSC staff member will verify their most up-to-date address, but if it is a bad address, the staff member will call the number on file. If they sign up for electronic notices, we will email them to notify them that there is a message in their YTB account.
- What will information/feedback loop look like for stakeholders and HHSC as we near the unwinding period and throughout it. When will that exchange start?
 - HHSC is actively working on a strategy and looking to finalize a sort of feedback loop.
- How can groups give good referrals to Level 3 community partners who can easily reset passwords, for example?
 - HHSC is working to enhancing the community partner program website to provide more information on how to get password reset assistance.
 - HHSC is also working on adding some FAQ's
- How can level 3 community partners build their skills in fully utilizing the tools available to them.
 - There are currently trainings, as well as regional and state office members to provide assistance. We are also doing regional forums to recruit regional partners and we are working on doing something unique at the forums in terms of PHE.
- Will regional key contacts for troubleshooting be made available to high-volume providers or MCOs, like they are for CPs?
 - There are forums and other unique ideas in the works.



- What is the status of making MCOs Community Partners? Will they have all of the responsibilities and functionalities of a Level 3 Community Partner? Will they (and other Level 3 CPs) be able to give phone-only end-of-PHE and renewal assistance?
 - The updated MOU for MCOs has been sent out. The MOU outlines the partnership between MCOs and their ability to utilize tools that are currently being used by community partners.
 - As of now, there aren't any options for a phone-only system, but we are looking at how to help virtually in rural areas.
- Is HHSC pursing waiver for (1) auto Medicaid renewal of folks in SNAP and (2) accepting MCO addresses without client verification
 - Under current CMS guidance there are waivers to help with the unwinding, one of which is using SNAP gross income to determine someone's medicaid eligibility at renewal. The other waiver allows us to get addresses from MCO's without client verification. HHSC is currently looking at these waivers and will provide updates if those waivers are approved.

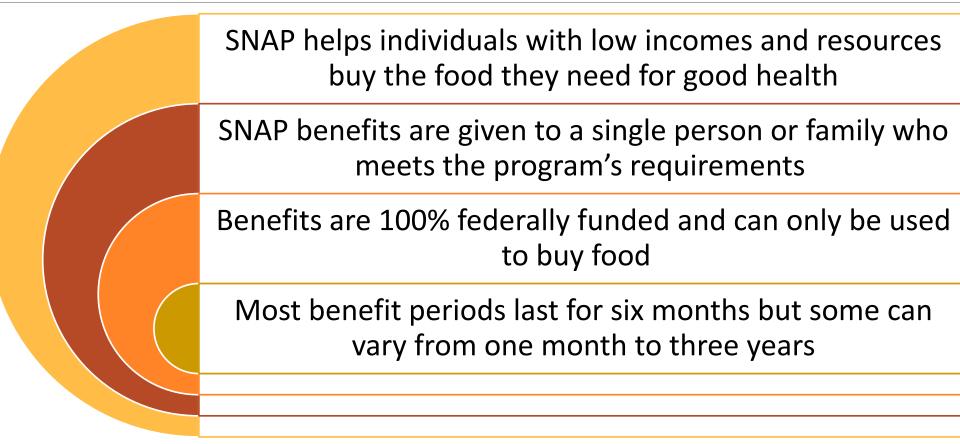
Texas Simplified Application Project

Karla Martinez, Policy Analyst kmartinez@everytexan.org





SNAP: The Basics



Addressing Hunger: Seniors & the Disabled

1 in 5 seniors in Texas report worrying about having enough food SNAP is designed to help but only 36% of eligible seniors in Texas are enrolled

People receiving disability benefits are also at an elevated risk of hunger Advocates including Feeding Texas, AARP, Every Texan and members of the Texas Food Policy Roundtable worked to pass SB 224 - TSAP

Seniors Struggling With Food Insecurity may Experience a Number of Challenges:



running out



Skipping meals



Choosing between food and medicine



Postponing medical care



Poor health outcomes



Higher health care use and costs

SOURCE: FRAC's Hunger and Health series

Texas Simplified Application Project (TSAP)

SB 224 required HHSC to apply for a federal waiver to run the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)

In December 2021 HHSC unveiled Texas Simplified Application Project (TSAP)

TSAP is a simpler SNAP application if all household members are *either* age 60+ *or* people with disabilities

- Certification lasts 36 months (vs 6 months)
- No interview on renewal
- Replaces SNAP-SSI

Texas Simplified Application Project (TSAP)

To be eligible for TSAP, client must meet *all* the following criteria:

All the members of the household (the people who live and purchase and prepare food together) are age 60 or older, receive disability payments no matter their age, or are a combination of both

The members of the household have no earned income, which is income received from working

No member of the household receives SNAP benefits under the SNAP-Combined Application Project (SNAP-CAP)

Using the TSAP Application

SNAP eligibility rules and benefit amounts are the SAME under TSAP

Application process is shorter – Form H0011 only 8 pages

Can also apply through YourTexasBenefits.com or 211

 If applying on YTB, 211 or Form H1010, HHSC will automatically determine TSAP eligibility

If qualified for TSAP, household will be certified for 36 months

If current SNAP clients renew benefits HHSC will auto determine TSAP



Texas Simplified Application Project (TSAP) for SNAP food benefits

Use this application to apply for SNAP food benefits when:

- all the members of your household (people who live with you and buy and prepare food together) are elderly (60
 or older) or receive disability payments such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Retirement, Survivors, and
 Disability Insurance (RSDI) or Veteran's disability compensation.
- · all members of your household have no earned income (income received from working); and
- no member of your household receives SNAP benefits under the SNAP-Combined Application Project (SNAP-CAP).

If you need help filling out this form or have questions, call toll-free 2-1-1 or 877-541-7905 (after you pick a language, press 2).

You may submit this application after completing your name, address, and signature.

Main Contact (Head of Household)					
Name (first, middle, last)					
Home address - street and apartment number	State	ZIP	County		
Mailing address (if different from home address)					
Phone number					
If we need to talk to you on the phone, will you need an interp ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what language?	reter? We can get an	interpreter a	at no cost to you.		
You might be able to get SNAP food benefits the next work d are a migrant or seasonal farm worker; have \$100 or less in available cash and bank account have costs for housing or utilities that are more than y month.	and expect to earn le				
Answer these questions for everyone living in your home.					
1. Is anyone in the home a migrant worker or seasonal	farm worker?	′es No			
2. Does anyone in the home have money in the bank or cash? Yes No \$					
3. Does anyone in the home expect to receive money this month? (This includes money you get from jobs, child support, social security and unemployment.)					
Does anyone in the home pay costs for housing and sewage, trash, phone and property tax.)	utilities? (This include:	rent, morto	gage, water, gas, electric,		
Sign here (or have someone with the right to act for you sign)	ī	Date			

Form H0011 12/2021

SNAP & PHE

When the Public Health Emergency ends, so do Emergency SNAP benefits

ALL families will see a cut in benefits

Maximizing Deductions will mean higher benefits

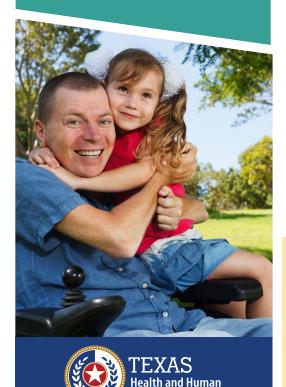
Texas Simplified Application Project



Already receiving SNAP benefits?

When you renew your benefits, HHS will automatically determine if you're eligible for TSAP.

For more information, visit hhs.texas.gov/tsap or call 2-1-1 (after selecting a language, choose Option 2).



What is the Texas Simplified Application Project (TSAP)?

- TSAP provides Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits to Texas households where all household members are either older adults (age 60 and older) or people with disabilities.
- Benefit amounts are based on income and household size.

How is TSAP different from regular SNAP food benefits?

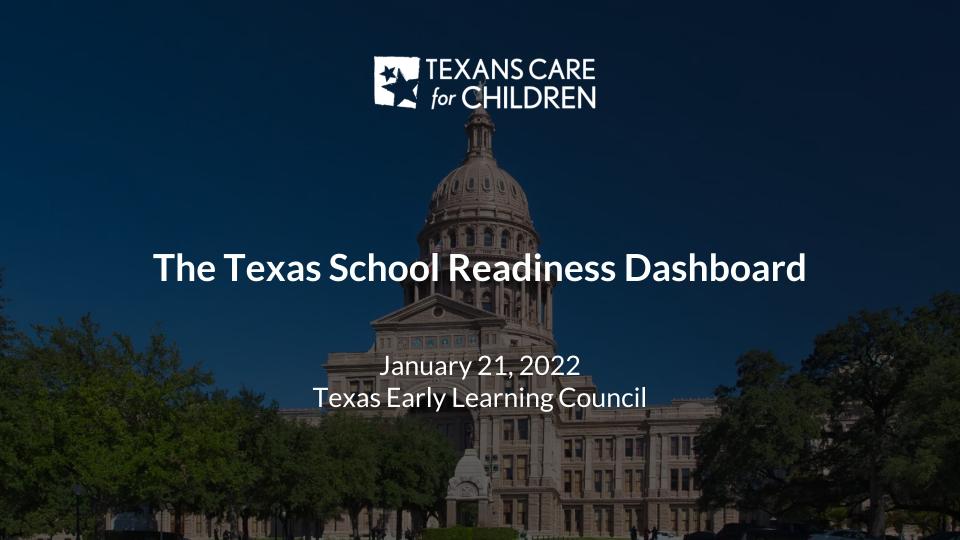
- The TSAP application is shorter, and recipients are certified for three years rather than six months.
- If a person is eligible, they don't have to do an interview when it's time to renew.

To be eligible for TSAP, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- All the members of your household (the people who live with you and purchase and prepare food together) are age 60 or older, receive disability payments no matter their age, or are a combination of both.
- The members of your household have no earned income, which is income received from working.
- No member of your household receives SNAP benefits under the SNAP-Combined Application Project (SNAP-CAP).

How to Apply:

- Apply online at YourTexasBenefits.com, visit a local Texas Health and Human Services office or call 2-1-1 (after selecting a language, choose Option 2).
- Documents to have on hand when applying include copies of medical bills or pharmacy statements, pension award letters, retirement or disability income statements or letters, and current bank statements.



Strengthening early childhood environments and outcomes for every family in every corner of Texas.

Today's Agenda

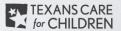
- Purpose
- Plan
- Indicators
- Next Steps





Underlying Principles

- Children with positive, healthy early childhood experiences are more likely to be ready for success in school and beyond
- Many different factors influence early childhood experiences
- To improve school readiness in Texas, a multi-domain, cross-system set of indicators can help policy and community leaders measure progress and drive policy



The Need

- Unfortunately, too few Texas children arrive at school with the strong early childhood foundation they need to succeed.
- Lacking a framework to help them improve early childhood experiences in a more comprehensive fashion, policy and community leaders tend to tackle school readiness in a siloed fashion.





Developing the Dashboard

- In 2020, Texans Care for Children convened over 40 Texans via a Leadership Council and Advisory Committee to identify a set of key indicators for a Texas School Readiness Dashboard
- The selected indicators provide insight into whether kids from birth to age five have the positive experiences they need to be ready to succeed in school
- We appreciate the support of The Meadows Foundation and other philanthropic partners

The Dashboard

The online, interactive Dashboard is intended to:

- serve as an easily accessible data resource
- help state leaders and communities align priorities and measure progress
- inform policy and funding decisions
- focus greater attention on the needs of children and families in the early childhood years



The Dashboard

The Dashboard is NOT intended as:

- an exhaustive list of what's important to the well-being of kids and families
- a tool to measure child development or progress at a individual level
- a measure of the efficacy of any particular intervention



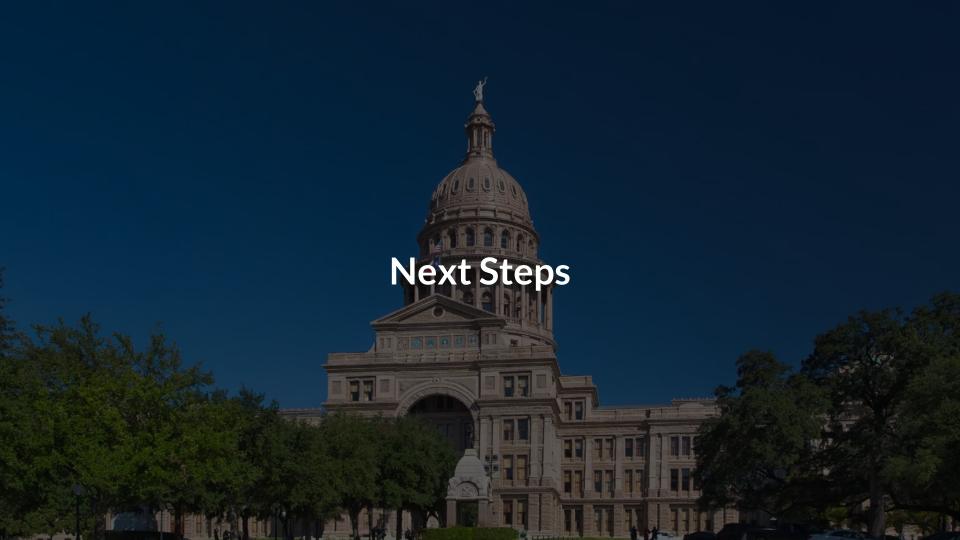


Dashboard Indicators

- Child hunger
- Poverty rate
- Quality of adult-child interactions
- Social-emotional development

- Access to health coverage
- Access to health services
- Access to high-quality early education and care
 - birth through three
 - three through kindergarten





Next Steps

Engaging state leaders, including agencies, TELC, and the House Early
 Childhood Caucus to educate and aligning priorities

Coordinating with community partners to hone the user interface

Building and operationalizing the Dashboard

Disseminating research on what policy levers drive these indicators

Contact Us

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TexansCare



THE TEXAS SCHOOL READINESS DASHBOARD

Strengthening early childhood environments and outcomes for every family in every corner of Texas.

Children who enter kindergarten healthy and ready to learn are dramatically more likely to succeed in school and beyond. Kids only get one chance at childhood — and parents and communities only get one chance to put kids on the path to success in education, society, and life.

School Readiness is Critical to Children's Success — and is Shaped by the Experiences Throughout the First Five Years of Life

Too many infants, toddlers, and young children do not experience the nurturing and responsive early childhood environments that research shows positively shape growing brains and bodies. Research also shows that early adversity — such as not having enough food to eat or lacking nurturing interactions with adults — inhibits child development. As a result, many children show up to school struggling to manage their emotions or unable to focus on their teacher's lessons, leading to them falling behind their classroom peers.

If we can provide every young child with supportive experiences, far more Texas children will begin life with the strong foundation they need to be ready to succeed on day one of kindergarten. And if children show up happy, healthy, and ready to learn, far more Texas kids will be strong readers by third grade, on a path to high school graduation, and able to live up to their full potential.



Texas Leaders Have Taken Key Steps

2015

Governor Abbott made pre-k legislation a priority.

2019

State leaders made full-day pre-k a cornerstone of the landmark school finance bill (HB 3).

2021

The Legislature passed a suite of bipartisan bills to boost child care quality and legislation to help eligible children stay enrolled in health insurance.

2021

A bipartisan group of Texas legislators launched the House Early Childhood Caucus to "ensure that every Texas child is prepared to learn by kindergarten, that early childhood professionals are well-qualified, that each community in Texas has a system of well-organized early childhood services, and that Texas has a strong early childhood system and underlying data is used to coordinate, collaborate, and support children, families, and their needs."



But Too Many Kids Starting School Have Missed Out on Critical Early Childhood Experiences

Over the past three school years, nearly half of Texas children have been deemed not Kindergarten-ready by the Texas Education Agency. The state measures kindergarten readiness based on language development at kindergarten entry.

Due to disparities in family income, health, and early childhood education, among other factors, kindergarten readiness scores among Black and Hispanic children remain significantly lower than those of White and Asian children.

Texas Also Needs a Comprehensive View of School Readiness

TEA's kindergarten readiness assessment has a specific, valuable purpose but is not intended to measure whether children have the full range of experiences they need in early childhood to be school-ready.

State leaders and advocates have historically tackled early childhood issues in a piecemeal, siloed fashion rather than taking a more comprehensive approach to improving school readiness and success.

Stakeholders from Across Texas Began Meeting in 2020 to Develop a Strategy to Strengthen the State's Approach to School Readiness

Texans Care for Children facilitated a collective process with a Leadership Council composed of Representatives James White and Diego Bernal, Texans representing communities from Harlingen to Lubbock, and stakeholders ranging from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas to local school districts to early childhood experts.

The work was also informed by an Advisory Committee and relevant Texas and national research.

While strengthening child-level assessments is critical, stakeholders agreed that effectively gauging school readiness in Texas requires a holistic view of child and family experiences prior to children's first day of school.

Texans Care for Children 2



Texans Care for Children and partners are working to create an interactive, online Texas School Readiness Dashboard to:

- ✓ better measure the state's and communities' progress on improving school readiness,
- help policymakers, local communities, and early childhood advocates set big goals and build consensus about strategies to make progress,
- ensure state leaders are focusing attention on the most impactful indicators of school readiness, and
- serve as a data resource for Texas policymakers, community leaders, the media, academics, philanthropy, parents, and other interested Texans.

The Dashboard will be populated by data* on the following indicators from national, state, and local sources:

- Child hunger
- Poverty rate
- Quality of adult-child interactions
- Social-emotional development
- Access to health coverage

- Access to health services
- Access to high-quality early education and care (birth through age three)
- Access to high-quality early education and care (age three through kindergarten)

Collaboration Will be Key to Leveraging the Power of the Texas School Readiness Dashboard

To ensure the Dashboard is effective and aligned with related state and local efforts, a big tent of researchers, advocates, policymakers, and other stakeholders can help shape this new resource and endorse the Dashboard's indicators as essential components to improve school readiness.

We will seek feedback from experts and stakeholders across the state and join in coordinated efforts to improve school readiness. Partners and stakeholders are encouraged to give feedback on how to present this information to the general public and various decision-makers and join a coordinated effort to holistically improve school readiness in every corner of the state.

Texans Care for Children 3

^{*} Data will be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and region as available.



End of Continuous Medicaid Coverage: Communications Planning

Rachel Shumaker, Deputy Associate Commissioner

Access and Eligibility Services – Strategic

Engagement and Employee Support

HHSC Communications Plan for End of Continuous Coverage



 HHSC's unwinding approach includes a proactive multi-pronged communications campaign to help members, providers, health plans, and advocates prepare for the end of continuous coverage.

First Phase –
Pre-Continuous
Coverage Ending



Second Phase –
Continuous Coverage
End Confirmed



Third Phase –
Post-Continuous
Coverage End



Health and Human Services

Ambassador Program

HHSC created the **Ambassador Program** for stakeholders, partners, providers, health plans, and advocates to support members and prepare for the end of continuous Medicaid coverage.



Services

Ambassador Program Key Messages – Phase 1

Key Messages

- Sign up for an account at YourTexasBenefits.com or on the Your Texas Benefits mobile app.
- Report any changes to contact information to ensure any notices are received.
- Return renewal packets or requests for information as soon as possible.



DON'T WAIT — Respond and Update!



Update your information today.

Visit YourTexasBenefits.com or call 2-1-1 and select option 2.

Attention Medicaid recipients:

Have you moved, had a baby or changed jobs recently? Make sure you update your contact information soon. Visit YourTexasBenefits.com or call 2-1-1, option 2, to update your information.



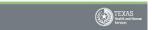






Update your information today.

Visit **YourTexasBenefits.com** or call **2-1-1** and select option 2.



DON'T WAIT — Respond and Update!



Update your information today.

Visit YourTexasBenefits.com or call 2-1-1 and select option 2.





Health and Human Services

Proposed Key Messages – Phase 2

Proposed Key Messages

- The Public Health Emergency is ending <insert TBD end date>, and continuous Medicaid eligibility will end soon. HHSC will notify members when they need to complete a renewal.
- Medicaid members should look out for renewal notices sent to them from HHSC. These notices are mailed in an envelope that says <u>Action Required</u> in red.
- In the meantime, Medicaid members need to report any changes (such as address, phone number, pregnancy or household member changes) as soon as possible. This will require members to contact HHSC.
- To report changes or renew, members can log into their Your Texas
 Benefits account or call 2-1-1 and select Option 2. For more information on
 continuous Medicaid coverage, visit https://html.ncbi.neg/.
- Reporting changes and renewing (when it's time) ensures coverage will continue if members are still eligible.



Services

Ambassador Program Toolkit

Actions Ambassadors Can Take Now

- Download Ambassador Toolkit from <u>https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/end-continuous-medicaid-coverage-ambassador-toolkit</u>
- Share toolkit items with members in offices or electronically.
- Share toolkit items with other stakeholders to ensure consistent messaging.



Additional Questions?

Contact Rachel Shumaker at Rachel.Shumaker@hhs.texas.gov

THANK YOU!