



AOF's BUDGET WEBINAR SERIES

The End of COVID-Era Programs



Kelsey Bergfeld
Advocates for Ohio's
Future



Joree Novotny
Ohio Association of
Foodbanks



Loren Anthes
The Center for
Community Solutions



Friday, February 17th at 10:30am



Advocates for Ohio's Future



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Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of over 500 state and local health and human services policy, advocacy, and provider organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that **all** Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state's most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.



Consolidated Appropriations Act & the Public Health Emergency

In December 2022, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA)

The CAA de-linked a number of COVID-related enhanced benefits, waivers and program flexibilities from the declaration of a federal public health emergency (PHE)

- The PHE has been in place since January 27, 2020, and renewed throughout the pandemic.
- The Biden Administration notified Congress that it will end the PHE on **May 11, 2023**



COVID Cliff

Since January 2020, a number of COVID-related enhanced benefits, waivers and program flexibilities have held families together, helped keep them safe and supported their most basic needs, at a time when an unprecedented pandemic raged outside their homes and made going to work a health risk.

The concurrent end of these flexibilities and expansions will cause a **COVID Cliff**, where families still fighting to gain stability will face the end of enhanced Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, the redetermination of the full Medicaid caseload for the first time in three years, resumed federal student loan payments, and more.



COVID Cliff

COVID-19 Emergency Relief and Federal Student Aid

- The student loan payment pause is extended until the U.S. Department of Education is permitted to implement the debt relief program or the litigation is resolved. Payments will restart 60 days later.
- If the debt relief program has not been implemented and the litigation has not been resolved by June 30, 2023 – payments will resume 60 days after that

Emergency Rental/Mortgage Assistance

- Start of cost sharing for COVID-19 tests
- End of Medicare and Medicaid waivers that allowed staffing flexibilities, alternative sites of care, clinician practice across state lines, and more
- End of flexibilities around which telehealth platforms are considered to meet privacy and security guidelines
- Start of cost sharing for COVID-19 treatments for patients with Medicare or commercial insurance

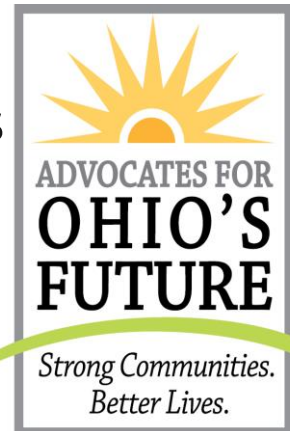


Ohio COVID Recovery Coalition

AOF convened a new coalition, the Ohio COVID Recovery Coalition, to analyze and form recommendations for state agencies and counties to “unwind” emergency flexibilities and other policies across assistance programs granted by the federal government to enhance states’ ability to respond to the crisis expeditiously and protect and serve the general public.

Objectives

- Identify all waivers/flexibilities in place across federal/state policies intended to provide additional assistance during public health emergency
- Confirm timeline of expirations-including any state actions needed
- What flexibilities could/should be made permanent (in some way, full or partial)
- Help state agencies connect people with assistance-inform recipients of future changes
- Develop recommendations for state agencies



Immediate Investment: \$331.5 Million

Ohio Foodbanks: \$183 Million



Ohio's foodbank network is already facing incredible need, from inflation, supply chain issues, low donations, and more. This support is vital to ensure foodbanks across Ohio are prepared to meet increased demand following reductions in SNAP benefits, rising operating costs and workforce shortages.

In-Person Assisters: \$23.5 Million



When Ohioans receive notices about benefits changes and undergo the Medicaid redetermination process, our in-person assisters will be their first line of support. This funding would support:

- In-person health insurance enrollment assisters
- Legal Aid Services
- A public outreach campaign to inform benefits recipients of

County Job & Family Services: \$25 Million



County Job and Family Services (CJFS) offices, who process eligibility for most public benefits in Ohio, are already strained by workforce shortages and unsustainably high call volume, which will only increase at the end of the PHE. This funding will support CJFS offices as they process an unprecedented number of cases in a short time.

Direct Service Nonprofit Support: \$100 Million



Throughout the pandemic, nonprofits across Ohio have been on the front lines helping communities weather the pandemic. Ohio's direct service nonprofit network has been pushed to the brink while rising operating costs and workforce issues become more challenging.



ADVOCATES FOR
**OHIO'S
FUTURE**

*Strong Communities.
Better Lives.*

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T 614-221-4336
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ohiofoodbanks.org

Impact of Consolidated Appropriations Act on SNAP and Nutrition Policy

February 17, 2023 | Advocates for Ohio's Future



Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,600 member agencies

The end of SNAP Emergency Allotments

Impact: Loss of \$126 million per month in SNAP benefits, directly impacting 673,339 households* (roughly 1.46 million Ohioans) and indirectly impacting local grocers and retailers and local economies

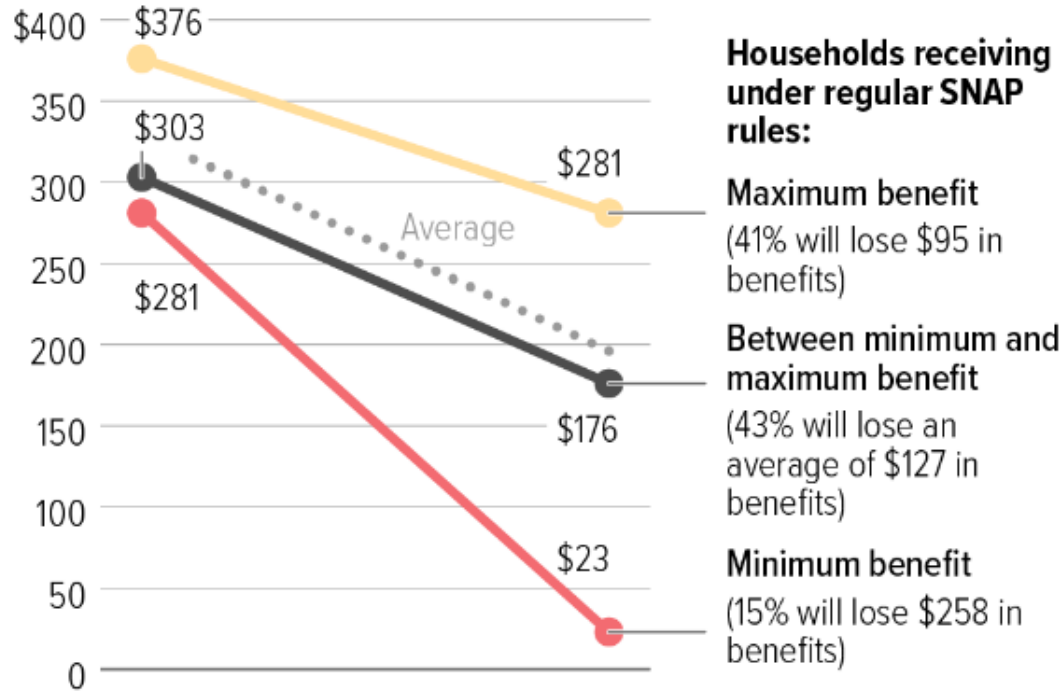


**www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/ohio, February Extension Approved (SNAP Emergency Allotments)*

FIGURE 2



Losses Will Vary Across Households, But Average 1-Person Household Will Lose \$132 When SNAP Emergency Allotments End



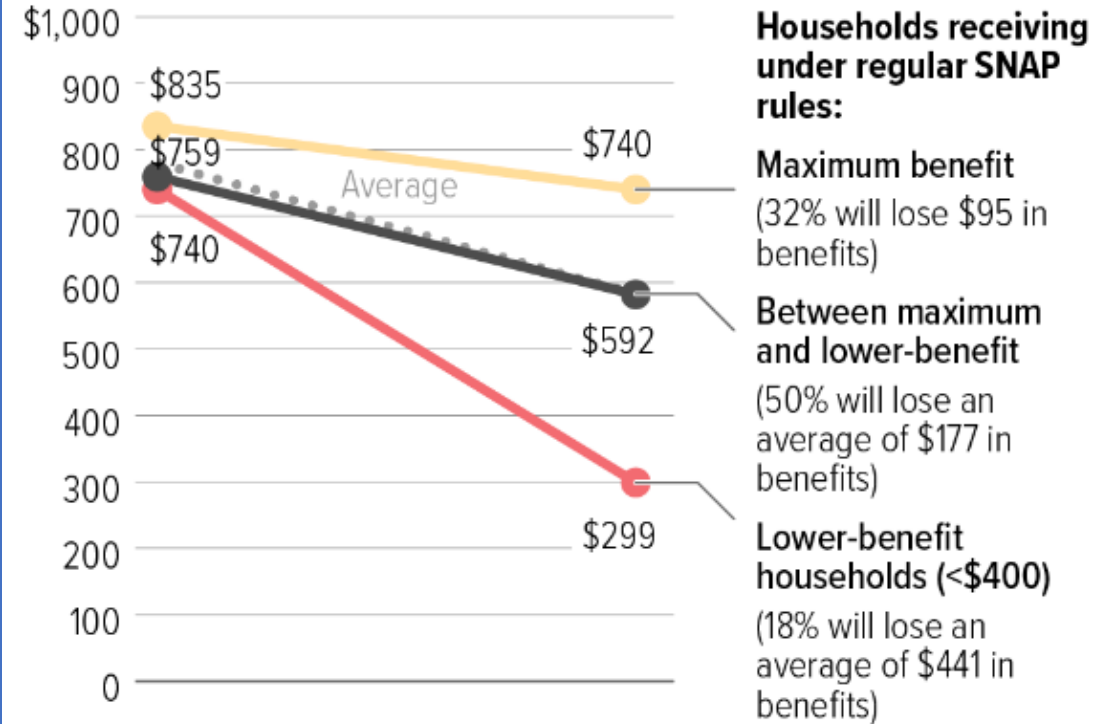
Note: Figures may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Estimates based on CBPP analysis of fiscal year 2019 SNAP Household Characteristics data with income and expenses inflated to fiscal year 2023 values

FIGURE 3



Losses Will Vary Across Households, But Average 3-Person Household Will Lose \$197 When SNAP Emergency Allotments End



Source: Estimates based on CBPP analysis of fiscal year 2019 SNAP Household Characteristics data with income and expenses inflated to fiscal year 2023 values

Impact on County Agencies & Access

Workload waivers: ODJFS sought USDA approval; 17 counties/clusters opted into 6-month recertification interview waivers from ODJFS; call center wait times and eligibility determination timeliness remain major and growing concerns



College Student Food Insecurity & SNAP

Expanded college student eligibility for SNAP remains tied to the federal Public Health Emergency, which will end on May 11. The temporary rules will end 30 days after that date. Students will continue receiving benefits for their full certification period.



EBT Skimming: Replacement Benefits

Through the CAA, Congress gave USDA the authority to replace SNAP benefits stolen by criminal skimming enterprises between 10/1/22 to 9/30/24 (max 2 times each FFY per household)



Permanent Summer EBT Program for Kids

First new *permanent* federal food assistance program of this magnitude in nearly 50 years. \$40 per child per month (adjusted for inflation over time) for low-income school-aged children (begins 2024)

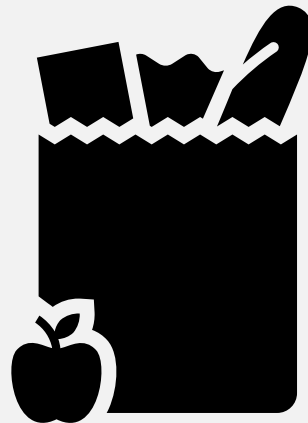


How Advocates + Providers Can Help

Spread the word. Help to empower consumers and their trusted messengers. Encourage the State of Ohio to invest more resources into the unwinding process to mitigate the cliff.



Materials to inform consumers, mitigate confusion, & share that help is available



\$50 million per year to support Ohio foodbanks; minimum SNAP benefit, free school meals



Resources for county agencies; additional support for assisters and navigators

advocatesforohio.org/ 2023-snap-changes

ohiofoodbanks.org/ funding-request

Extra SNAP benefits will end for all SNAP households beginning in March 2023.



Each month during the pandemic, SNAP benefits have been loaded onto your card two separate times. Beginning in March, you will only receive the amount of your first benefit.

Call volume will be high.

Update your information.

Help is available.

You do not need to take action. To check your benefit amount or balance, setup an account to track your funds at **ConnectEBT.com** or call **1-866-386-3071**.

Go to **benefits.ohio.gov** to report changes to your address, income, etc. Visit **ohiofoodbanks.org** and click **Get Help** to talk to a SNAP outreach specialist about a benefits check-up.

Need more help with food? Please visit **ohiofoodbanks.org** and click **Find Your Foodbank** to connect with free groceries, meals, and more.

The benefits currently on your card will not go away. Still have questions? Call **1-844-640-6446** – call volume may be high. Need more help navigating your benefits? Go to **OhioLegalHelp.org** for information and referrals.



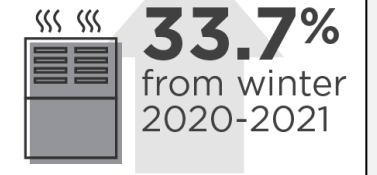
This project has been funded at least in part with federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



Meat, fish, and egg prices



2-bedroom unit in Ohio



The cost to heat homes



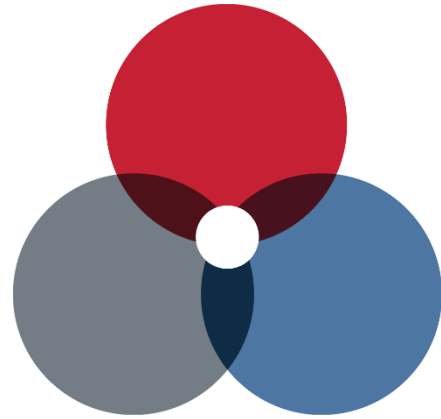
Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we work collaboratively to invest in food and economic security and ensure an equitable recovery for all Ohioans.

The FY 2024-2025 Biennial Budget is an important opportunity for Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly to continue the strong, bipartisan support for hunger relief and to support our most vulnerable neighbors.

STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS: OUR BUDGET REQUEST

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is respectfully requesting \$50 million per year over the FY 2024-2025 biennium (\$100 million total) to be allocated for the following:

- Ohio Food Program & Agricultural Clearance Program (\$49 million per year):** To secure and distribute at least 65 million pounds, or 54 million meals, of nutritious, wholesome foods across the state. This money will also be used for essential non-food household items, such as shampoo, toothpaste, baby wipes, diapers, and toilet paper.
- Capacity Building Resources for Charitable Organizations (\$1 million per year):** To provide refrigeration and freezer units and other necessary equipment for food pantries to handle more perishable protein, dairy, and produce.



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Consolidated Appropriations Act Impacts for Ohio Medicaid

Advocates for Ohio's Future

February 17, 2023

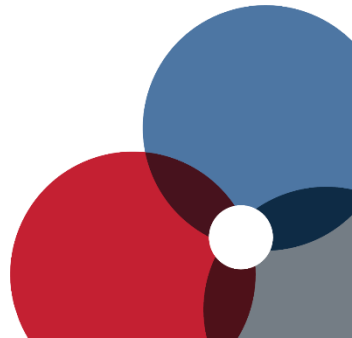
Agenda

- The Public Health Emergency
- Consolidated Appropriations Act
- Ohio Medicaid
- Considerations and Resources



LOREN ANTHES, MBA, CSSGB
Visiting Fellow, Value-Based Health Care

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The Public Health Emergency

- Continuous enrollment
 - 91.3M Americans (+20.2M/+28.5%)
 - 3,318,481 Ohioans (+1.2M/+27.8%)
 - Mostly with expansion, kids, parents
- eFMAP
 - US: \$100B+ (as of 10.22)
 - Ohio: ~\$100M/mo (\$4.54B thru 3.23)
 - Mostly benefitted ABD

Figure 3

State Share of Medicaid Spending on Additional Enrollees Due to the MOE Compared to Fiscal Relief from Enhanced FMAP, FY 2020 - FY 2022



NOTE: The enhanced FMAP began in FY 2020 Q2 is assumed to end at the end of FY 2022. Bars represent state spending or fiscal relief over all three years from FY 2020 through FY 2022. FY refers to the federal fiscal year.

SOURCE: KFF estimates based on analysis of enrollment and spending data from the Preliminary CY 2019 Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) inflated for pandemic enrollment growth and compared to a baseline model. See methods of KFF's "Fiscal and Enrollment Implications of Medicaid Continuous Coverage Requirement During and After the PHE Ends" for more information

Waivers to Equip the Unwind

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the availability of temporary waivers through 1902(e)(14)(A) of the SSA
 - Contact updates
 - SNAP/TANF Alignment
 - MCO Engagement
- Ohio Selections
 - SNAP Alignment
 - No Income Renewal
 - MCO Contacts
 - USPS Change of Address
- Ohio Medicaid has developed a [resource](#) to help organizations inform and connect individuals during unwind
- Ohio Medicaid has also improved ex parte renewal process and increased reasonable compatibility threshold



The flyer is a vertical rectangular graphic with a blue header and footer. The header contains the Ohio Department of Medicaid logo. The main body is white with blue accents. It features a photograph of a woman and a child, a photograph of a man reading a letter, and icons for a mobile phone and a laptop. Text is in blue and black.

Ohio | Department of Medicaid

Attention Medicaid Members!

Don't risk losing your health insurance.

Keep your address and phone number up to date.

Call us today at 844-640-6446 or visit us online at benefits.ohio.gov

Don't miss important updates about your health insurance.

If you get a letter in the mail, follow the instructions and respond.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act

- December 2022, Congress passed the CAA
 - Terminates Continuous Enrollment on March 31, 2023
 - Imposes penalties on states (.25 FMAP for each quarter) in reduced matching payments for non-compliance on reporting including corrective action plans
 - Requires CE for children in Medicaid and CHIP (1.1.24, no Ohio impact), extending federal funding in CHIP
 - Makes postpartum coverage option permanent
 - Introduces policies related to mental health and juvenile justice
 - Phases down the enhanced FMAP
- CAA Reporting Requirements
 - Number of beneficiaries renewed including ex parte
 - Coverage terminations
 - Procedural terminations
 - Number enrolled in CHIP
 - Call center volume, wait time and abandonment rates
- CMS requirements (before CAA)
 - Applications
 - Renewals, renewals due, month associated
 - Fair hearings pending

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, cont

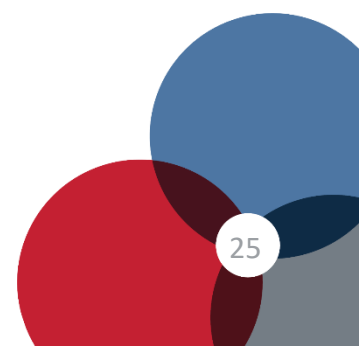
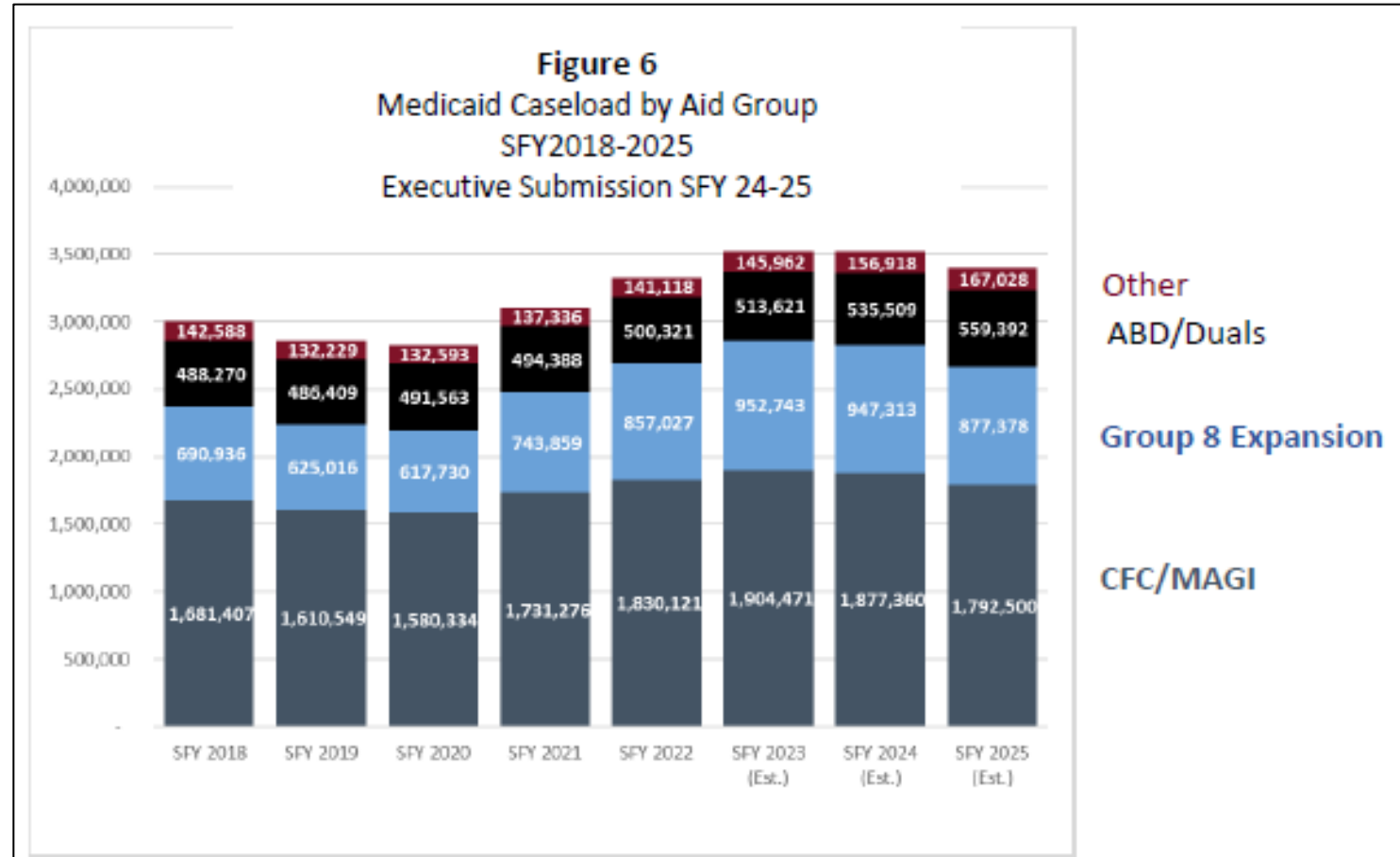
- eFMAP phase-down conditional
 - Must meet federal requirements
 - Must use NCOA database or other information on contacts
 - May not disenroll anyone based on returned mail until state has made a “good faith effort” to contact
- Other Policies of Interest
 - EPSDT expansion of institutionalized justice-involved youth (1.1.25)
 - Institutionalized justice-involved youth can be covered for services (1.1.25)
 - MCOs must publish provider directories (7.1.25)
 - Additional guidance and TA for states to improve crisis response
 - MFP extension
 - HCBS spousal protections

Ohio Medicaid: eFMAP

Figure 4
Enhanced Federal Funds

Time Period	No. Calendar Quarters	Enhanced Matching Rate (Percentage Increase)	Enhanced Federal Funds Received
Jan. 1, 2020 – Mar. 31, 2023	13	6.20%	\$4.54 Billion
Apr. 1 – Jun. 30, 2023	1	5.00%	\$310 Million
Jul. 1 – Sept. 30, 2023	1	2.50%	\$157 Million
Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023	1	1.50%	\$85 Million
Jan 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2023	16	Total	\$5.1 Billion

Enrollment



Considerations

Few Managed Care Plans Have Current Contact Info for Medicaid Members as Redeterminations Loom

The continuous enrollment requirement, which barred states from disenrolling Medicaid members, will end March 31. About three-quarters of managed care plans anticipate 10% to 25% of their Medicaid enrollees losing coverage once the continuous enrollment provision ends.

- HHS estimates 15M will lose coverage
- KFF estimates 8M from ineligibility, 7M from procedural snags (~47%)
- Using that rate, Ohio could expect 93k will lose coverage, in appropriately
- Some insurers are expecting significant shifts to Marketplace plans
- With procurement, enrollment volume will be a key metric to watch for actuarial soundness, network adequacy, etc.

Resources

- [National Health Law Program](#)
- [National Center on Law and Elder Rights](#)
- [HHS Fact Sheet on PHE Termination](#)
- [Georgetown Unwinding Renewal Reporting Resources](#)

Resources

- PUBLIC TESTIMONY
- RESEARCH & REPORTS
- EQUITY RESOURCES
- AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
- OHIO COVID RECOVERY
- 2023 SNAP CHANGES**

2023 SNAP Changes: End of Temporary Benefits



Extra SNAP benefit amounts will end for all SNAP households in Ohio beginning in March 2023.

Each month during the pandemic, SNAP benefits have been loaded onto your card two separate times. Beginning in March, you will only receive the amount of your first benefit.

Call volume will be high

- You do not need to take action. To check your benefit amount or balance, setup an account to track your funds at [ConnectEBT.com](https://connectebt.com) or call 1-866-386-3071.

Update your information

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<https://www.advocatesforohio.org/2023-snap-changes>



Our Budget Webinar Series Will Continue!

Keep an eye out for the next conversation in our Budget Webinar Series! We'll be hosting conversations on the budget for the next 5 months.

Recording and slides will be sent out to all registrants by this afternoon

- Recording and slides will also be available at <https://www.advocatesforohio.org/webinars>

