



**NOTIFICATION
EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY DUE TO COVID-19**

October 18, 2022

Dear beneficiary:

On March 18, the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), Pub L. No. 116-127 (2020), was signed. This Act provides that as of March, the Program cannot cancel the eligibility of any beneficiary during the state of health emergency decreed by the Secretary of Health of the United States. To this day, the emergency decree continues.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued specific instructions regarding the rule to follow regarding the extension of beneficiary eligibility, as well as the subject of recertifications.

1. The state of emergency due to COVID-19 will be in effect if it is decreed or extended by the Secretary of Health of the United States. The state of a health emergency is in effect today since, on July 19, 2021, the United States Secretary of Health extended the emergency due to COVID-19 until January 2023.
2. CMS established that a beneficiary's eligibility will extend until the last day of the month when the Secretary of Health of the United States indicates that the state of health emergency due to COVID-19 has ended. Now, the extension of eligibility is until January 31, 2023, but it can continue beyond this date if the Secretary of Health renews the emergency decree.
3. CMS also indicated that upon completion of the state of emergency, the recertification process would begin. In this case, beneficiaries' eligibility will remain active until the Medicaid Program can carry out Recertification.
4. The Medicaid Program will comply with the rules issued by CMS.

Recertification:

The rules established by CMS indicate that:

1. When the state of emergency ends, the eligibility of these beneficiaries cannot be terminated or canceled at that time.
2. CMS indicated that Puerto Rico must prepare a Plan to comply with Recertification and that the Program must send said Plan for CMS consideration.
3. Beneficiaries will continue to be active and will be notified of the process to follow to comply with the recertification or reevaluation requirement and the pertinent warnings regarding the start or end date of eligibility.
4. Recertification is an individual determination.

You can contact our call center (787) 641-4224 or TTY (787) 625-6955, Monday through Friday 8: 00 am 6:00 pm, to clarify any doubts or questions that you have.

Cordially,

Dinorah Collazo-Ortiz, Esq., CHC
Executive Director