



WEEKLY E-MAILING

February 23, 2023

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Helpful Links

ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<https://acl.gov/>

ADvancing States (NASUAD) Information

Here is a link to state technical assistance from ADvancing States:

<http://www.advancingstates.org/state-technical-assistance/enhancedtechnical-assistance>

Commonwealth Council on Aging 2023 Best Practices Awards

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst

The deadline is quickly approaching! Please be sure to get your applications in by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2023!

The **Commonwealth Council on Aging** is sponsoring the **2023 Best Practices Award Program** targeted to organizations serving older Virginians and their families. The awards will be given to innovative programs and services that assist older adults to age in the community. The Commonwealth aims to recognize creativity in services, such as livable communities, home and community based supports, transportation, housing, caregiver supports, intergenerational programming, and more. The Council believes the door is wide open for creative best practices.

Complete instructions, nomination forms, and information on previous Best Practices Award winners are posted on the DARS Aging Boards and Councils website under "News and Information" found here:

<https://www.vda.virginia.gov/boardsandcouncils.htm>.

Nominations for the 2023 awards must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2023.

The Council is pleased to support the following awards to the top winners: 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place. The Council will also recognize up to three honorable mention programs. Award winners will be notified in late March.

The Council thanks Dominion Energy and AARP Virginia for sponsoring this initiative.

GusNIP Nutrition Incentive Program

Devin Bowers, Grants Specialist

The [GusNIP Nutrition Incentive Program](#) presents the opportunity to bring together stakeholders from various parts of the food and healthcare systems to foster understanding of how they might improve the health and nutrition status of participating households. NIFA requests applications for the GusNIP Nutrition Incentive Program to support and evaluate projects intended to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by providing incentives at the point of purchase among income eligible consumers participating in the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

- FUNDING YEAR: Fiscal Year (FY) 2023
- LETTER OF INTENT DEADLINE: Not Required
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 4, 2023
- ANTICIPATED FUNDING: \$36,300,000
- FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-FINI-009750
- ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 10.331

The primary goal and objective of the [GusNIP Produce Prescription Program](#) is to demonstrate and evaluate the impact of projects on (1) the improvement of dietary health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables; (2) the reduction of individual and household food insecurity; and (3) the reduction in healthcare use and associated costs.

- FUNDING YEAR: Fiscal Year (FY) 2023
- LETTER OF INTENT DEADLINE: Not Required
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 16, 2023
- ANTICIPATED FUNDING: \$10,800,000
- FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-FINI-009749
- ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 10.331

Sincerely,

Devin Bowers

Grants Specialist, DARS Email: devin.bowers@dars.virginia.gov

DMAS Letter to Providers Regarding End of Public Health Emergency

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs and Services

To: All Providers Participating in the Virginia Medicaid and FAMIS Programs
From: Cheryl J. Roberts, Director Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) will end on May 11, 2023. (Visit this [link](#) to read the CMS announcement.)

A number of provider flexibilities that started during the PHE will remain in effect permanently in Virginia. These include:

- Telehealth. Telehealth is permitted for many practice areas and telehealth supplements that provide guidance are attached to the following Medicaid Manuals: ARTS, Mental Health, Psychiatric Services, Physician-Practitioner, Home Health, Early Intervention, and Rehabilitation.
- Electronic signatures are now permitted as described in Chapter 2 of the Medicaid Manuals.
- Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS):
 - Opioid treatment programs may administer medication as take-home dosages, up to a 28-day supply.
 - A member's home may serve as the originating site for prescription of buprenorphine.
- Pharmacy: 90-day supply for many drugs. (To view the most recent list of these drugs, visit this [link](#).)
- No co-payments for Medicaid and FAMIS members.

A number of provider flexibilities will end at midnight on May 11, 2023. Several flexibilities related to home and community-based waiver services will last for six months after the end of the PHE. A detailed list of these flexibilities can be found at this [link](#).

NOTE: This bulletin is separate from the continuous coverage requirement that ends on March 31, 2023. Please reference the "End of Continuous Coverage and Update on Provider Flexibilities" at this [link](#) and posted on 1/9/23 for more information.

<https://vamedicaid.dmas.virginia.gov/bulletin/public-health-emergency-ends-may-11-2023>

Important Deadline for Managed Care Network Providers

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs and Services

Attention Provider Association Leads and Other Interested Stakeholders:

We need your assistance to share this important message with our Medicaid managed care provider community, including billing and non-billing, servicing, ordering, referring, or prescribing providers who serve members through managed care organizations (MCOs) or Fee-For-Service (FFS), or both.

In accordance with the federal *21st Century Cures Act*, over the last several months, the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) and its managed care plans have been notifying providers to enroll as a provider directly with DMAS through the Department's Medicaid Provider Services Solution (PRSS) enrollment portal.

Important Deadline for Managed Care Network Providers

Effective April 1, 2023, Virginia Medicaid MCOs will be prohibited from paying network providers until the provider is enrolled with the DMAS through the PRSS portal.

Two Action Items for Providers:

1. Enroll all National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers in PRSS for all of the provider's servicing, billing, ordering, referring, or prescribing providers.

- Providers should initiate their enrollment application in PRSS, via virginia.hppcloud.com now to avoid disruption to claims payments.
- Only one enrollment application per NPI/service location is necessary in PRSS, even if a provider participates with more than one MCO.
- Providers with multiple National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers must enroll all of their NPIs in PRSS.
- Providers with multiple service locations must enroll all service locations.
- MCO network providers who have already enrolled all of their NPIs and all of their service locations with Medicaid fee-for-service do not need to re-enroll in PRSS. Providers who are not certain if all NPIs and service locations are enrolled should verify their enrollment status in PRSS (see #2 below).

2. Check your PRSS enrollment status

- DMAS has posted a spreadsheet that lists all active, PRSS enrolled Virginia Medicaid providers.

- Providers should check their enrollment status for all NPIs and service locations before enrolling in PRSS, including for servicing and billing providers and also for non-billing NPIs, including ordering, referring, and prescribing providers.
- The Virginia Medicaid provider spreadsheet is located at: [MCO Provider Network Resources | MES \(virginia.gov\)](#)
- Providers can download the spreadsheet to verify that all of their NPIs and service locations are enrolled.
- If any of the provider's NPIs or service locations are missing from the spreadsheet, the provider must enroll the missing NPIs or service locations using the PRSS portal (see #1 above to enroll).
- Providers can contact the Gainwell helpdesk with any questions they have about the content for their NPIs in the spreadsheet, or about the Virginia Medicaid provider enrollment process, at 1-888-829-5373, or by email: vamedicaidproviderenrollment@gainwelltechnologies.com.

Thank you for your assistance in relaying this important message to providers!

Sincerely,

Tammy Driscoll
Senior Advisor
DMAS Director's Office
804-405-3868

Unwinding Town Halls / Listening Sessions

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs and Services

The **Families First Coronavirus Response Act** directed states to maintain Medicaid health coverage for individuals enrolled on or after March 18, 2020, regardless of changes in their circumstances through the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Recent federal guidance in the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act ends this continuous coverage requirement on March 31, 2023. In March of 2023, the Department of Medical Assistance Services and the Department of Social Services will resume full redeterminations of Medicaid eligibility, with the first closures occurring on April 30, 2023. Over the course of 12 months, redeterminations will be initiated for all 2.2 million Virginians enrolled in Medicaid. We invite all of our community partners, stakeholders, and community members to join us as we share information about how resuming to normal operations will impact members and how Medicaid partners can assist during the transition.

Agenda:

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Resuming Normal Medicaid Operations
- Renewal Process Plans and Partnerships
- Unwinding Communications, Outreach and Engagement Efforts
- Questions and Answers
- Closing Remarks

Upcoming Unwinding Stakeholder Meetings

Date/Time	Stakeholder Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 7:30 a.m.	Town Hall/Listening Session I: Providers
Thursday, March 2, 2023, 9 a.m.	Town Hall/Listening Session II: Senior Programs
Monday, March 6, 2023, 6 p.m.	Town Hall/Listening Session III: Advocates and Community Leaders

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 6 p.m.	Town Hall/Listening Session IV: Home Health Associations
Monday, March 13, 2023, 12 p.m.	Town Hall/Listening Session V: Nursing Facilities
Monday, March 13, 2023, 6 p.m.	Town Hall/Listening Session VI: General

Resources

[Unwinding Town Hall Poster](#)

[Unwinding Town Hall Flyer - Providers](#)

[Unwinding Town Hall Flyer - Senior Programs](#)

[Unwinding Town Hall Flyer - Advocates and Community Leaders](#)

[Unwinding Town Hall Flyer - Home Health Associations](#)

[Unwinding Town Hall Flyer - Nursing Facilities](#)

[Unwinding Town Hall Flyer - General](#)

Charlotte Arbogast, MS
Senior Policy Analyst/Regulatory Coordinator
Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

NPR *On Aging* Feature

Cecily Slasor, Administrative/Program Support

The NPR website has a page titled *On Aging* which features articles about local and national topics related to aging.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/aging/>