



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 3, 2022

Media Contact: Miriam Harmatz, Esq., Advocacy Director and Founder Florida Health Justice Project, (786)-853-9385, harmatz@floridahealthjustice.org

Florida Health Justice Project Offers New Tools to Assist Medicaid Recipients Likely to Lose Coverage After the Public Health Emergency Ends

(Miami, Florida)—Florida Health Justice Project (FHJP) has created [resource materials](#) and a video to help identify and assist the hundreds of thousands of Floridians who will likely lose coverage once the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) enacted ends.

“Medicaid is notoriously complicated,” said Miriam Harmatz, FHJP Advocacy Director and Founder. “These training materials will help legal services staff, navigators, social service providers and others assist Florida Medicaid recipients before and during the end of the PHE.”

Before the Covid pandemic, less than 500,000 parents and caregivers had Medicaid in Florida. As of June 2022, that number has more than doubled to almost 1.2 million.

While the PHE remains in effect, states must provide continuous Medicaid coverage, even for those who are no longer eligible for Medicaid. After the PHE ends, states will return to normal operations and eligibility determinations, a process referred to as the “PHE Unwinding.”

During the “unwind,” hundreds of thousands of Floridian will receive notices from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) terminating the Medicaid coverage of some or all family members.

"These are comprehensive, essential resources that will be critical for even the most experienced staff assisting Florida Medicaid recipients," said Aidil Oscariz, Community Engagement and Policy Consultant for [Catalyst Miami](#).

The FHJP video explains why many Florida's parents and caregivers are likely to lose Medicaid after the PHE ends.

"Many parents who lost their jobs early in the pandemic have since gone back to work and are now over Florida's meager income limit," Harmatz explained.

As detailed in the video, Florida's income limit for parents & caregivers is extremely low: For example, a single parent with two children cannot earn more than \$582/month to qualify for Medicaid coverage (about 30% of the poverty level).

"If Florida had expanded Medicaid, like 38 other states, we would not be facing such a catastrophic loss of coverage for so many low income parents and caregivers," Harmatz said.

Florida Health Justice Project (FHJP) recognizes that access to quality and affordable health care is a human right and engages in comprehensive advocacy to expand healthcare access and promote health equity for Florida's most vulnerable and marginalized residents. www.floridahealthjustice.org