

IMPROVE THE MEDICAID ENROLLMENT SYSTEM:

ENSURING ILLINOISANS CAN GET AND KEEP THE HEALTH COVERAGE THEY DEPEND ON



1 in every 4 Illinoisans Relies on Medicaid

Medicaid provides high quality, low cost health coverage to over **3 million** people in Illinois.

MEDICAID:

- ✓ Is the largest single source of health coverage in the state.
- ✓ Covers children, families, seniors, and persons with disabilities.
- ✓ Keeps rural hospitals open, is the single largest payer of mental health services, and brings billions in federal funds to state.
- ✓ Allows lower-income workers and families to get the care they need to stay healthy while being protected from financial ruin due to medical costs.

ILLINOIS' MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT SYSTEM NEEDS HELP.

- ✗ People applying for Medicaid routinely have to wait months to find out if they have been approved, delaying access to medication, preventative care, and treatments.
- ✗ Up to half of all those on Medicaid lose coverage each year despite still being eligible due to procedural issues like lost mail and system glitches.
- ✗ This situation causes harmful gaps in coverage that prevent eligible Illinoisans from getting the care they deserve and depend on to stay healthy.



Illinoisans on Medicaid should not have to jump through extra hoops and barriers to access their healthcare.

THERE ARE SOLUTIONS THAT WORK.

Other states have ensured that up to 90% of Medicaid beneficiaries begin receiving benefits and are renewed quickly by:

- 1 Processing applications in real-time so that Illinoisans can get on to Medicaid sooner
- 2 Making Medicaid renewals simpler and less burdensome by reducing the required paperwork
- 3 Increasing user-friendly communication between Medicaid and enrollees

WANT TO HELP US HELP MEDICAID?

Improving the Medicaid system so that it actually works is critical in achieving healthcare justice for people of color and people earning low-incomes. We invite a diverse, action-oriented table to help us make these changes a reality.

Contact Graciela Guzman, Coalition Manager, for questions or to get involved!
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Protect Our Care – Illinois (POC-IL) is a coalition of 145+ organizations representing health care advocates, providers, consumers, and workers committed to protecting and building upon the benefits of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid.