

Louisiana Medicaid Innovation Challenge

Briefs and Background Information

Title	Date Published	Summary
Report: MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY: WAGE VERIFICATION PROCESS OF THE EXPANSION POPULATION	November 8, 2018	This report evaluates and identifies areas in which the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) can strengthen its process of using wage data to determine eligibility of the Medicaid expansion population.
Computer upgrade aims to improve Medicaid eligibility checks	November 16, 2018	Gov. John Bel Edwards' administration told lawmakers Friday a computer upgrade will address concerns the Medicaid program has spent millions on people not eligible for the coverage, and the system improvements won praise from the state's top auditor.
Louisiana Medicaid Audit Report Misses the Mark	November 16, 2018	A recent legislative audit of the adult Medicaid expansion in Louisiana compares apples and oranges to arrive at a conclusion that millions of dollars were paid on behalf of Medicaid enrollees who did not qualify. But is it accurate to characterize these individuals as ineligible?
Louisiana's state-of-the art Medicaid enrollment system goes live after years in the works	December 4, 2018	Louisiana now has one of the nation's most modern Medicaid enrollment systems — an undertaking that leaders say will help address concerns over potentially misspent funds in the health care program that covers more than a third of the state's population.
Report: MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY: MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME DETERMINATION PROCESS	December 12, 2018	The purpose of this report is: To evaluate LDH's policies and processes for making and documenting MAGI-based eligibility determinations.
New Medicaid eligibility and enrollment system in Louisiana	January 11, 2019	The Louisiana Department of Health launched a new Medicaid eligibility and enrollment system. The new system will improve customer service, boost efficiency and create a more accurate and immediate approval process.
Shrinking Medicaid Rolls In Missouri And Tennessee Raise Flag On Vetting Process	February 8, 2019	Medicaid enrollment nationally was down about 1.5 percent from January to October last year, the latest enrollment data available from the federal government's Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
Denial letters: Thousands could lose La. Medicaid coverage	February 21, 2019	Louisiana's health department has notified tens of thousands of Medicaid recipients that they could be booted from the program, after a newly used computer check found they earn too much money to receive the taxpayer-financed health coverage.

State urges thousands of Louisiana Medicaid recipients to update info or risk losing coverage	February 21, 2019	Thousands of Medicaid recipients will soon get alerts that they may no longer qualify for the health care program for the poor, unless they have evidence that proves they still meet the state's eligibility requirements.
Thousands in Louisiana have until March to prove Medicaid eligibility	February 27, 2019	Louisiana's health department said the 37,000 Medicaid recipients sent letters this month notifying them they are slated to lose the insurance coverage have until March 29 to present "information demonstrating ongoing income eligibility." If they can't prove they meet the Medicaid income requirements, they'll be ejected from the program at March's end.
How Republicans Have Used a Phony Audit to Smear Medicaid Expansion in Louisiana	March 30, 2019	While there isn't any legitimate or compelling reason to believe Medicaid expansion was ever beset by widespread recipient fraud, there is a desperate political need to create a counter-narrative from Republican elected officials who had built their careers by explaining to voters all of the horrors that would occur if Louisiana dared to accept "Obama's healthcare money."
30K people removed from Louisiana Medicaid rolls, deemed ineligible	April 3, 2019	Louisiana's health department sent notices to 40,000 Medicaid recipients in February, warning them they would lose the insurance coverage unless they could demonstrate by March 29 that they met the program's income requirements. Three-quarters of those who received the letters — 30,500 people — lost their benefits at the end of March,
What's next for LA residents booted from Medicaid? LDH encourages people booted from Medicaid to contact the Federal Insurance Marketplace for coverage alternatives	April 7, 2019	LDH says differentiating the amount of people who were ineligible for coverage from the large majority of people who lost coverage because they failed to respond, but may still be eligible under the program's requirements, requires a special query of the system which would take a while.
17,000 people must prove they qualify for Medicaid or be kicked off the program	May 22, 2019	Louisiana Department of Health has sent out a second round of letters to 17,000 Medicaid recipients warning the people they will be booted off the health insurance program unless they prove they qualify. And the agency is urging people to respond, after kicking more than 30,000 people off the program at the end of March, the vast majority because they did not reply to the first round of letters.
Louisiana enrolled more than 1,600 individuals earning more than \$100,000 in taxpayer-funded Medicaid	May 26, 2019	More than 1,600 individuals earning six-figure incomes enrolled in Medicaid after the Affordable Care Act expansion, according to an investigative report published by the New Orleans-based Pelican Institute for Public Policy.
Medicaid expansion enrollment dips slightly, down 50,000 from peak amid new wage check system	July 23, 2019	After two rounds of quarterly wage checks that are part of a new eligibility system for Louisiana's Medicaid program, the number of people enrolled in Medicaid expansion in the state has fallen by nearly 51,000 people.
After thousands booted from Medicaid rolls, Louisiana to spend \$400M less under program's projections	June 13, 2019	Louisiana's Medicaid program will spend about \$400 million less than expected in the nearly ended budget year, largely because tens of thousands of people were booted from Medicaid rolls amid bolstered computer checks of eligibility.
Louisiana Suspends Automatic Ending of Medicaid Coverage	August 7, 2019	The Louisiana Department of Health has temporarily suspended a feature of its new eligibility system that automatically kicked people off the Medicaid rolls if they did not respond to requests for annual renewal information, a move that will keep 75,000 people from losing coverage immediately.

National Decline in Child Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP Slows but Steep Declines Continue in Problem States	August 16, 2019	<p>In the first four months of 2019, overall child enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP dropped by 122,000 children with declines in 31 states offset by gains in 20 states.</p> <p>Louisiana moved into the fifth place with a 6.4 percent drop. More than 47,000 children have lost Medicaid and CHIP there since December 2017.</p>
For poor families, dropped Medicaid coverage in Missouri burdens lives full of trauma	August 16, 2019	<p>Since 2017, more than 100,000 children have been dropped from the Medicaid rolls, and many of them — if not most — are in families like Wortham's, where the children still qualify for services but through bureaucratic incompetence, a computer glitch or intentional indifference, have lost the lifesaving medical coverage they deserve and need.</p>
Louisiana Medicaid expansion enrollment dips again, continuing months-long slide	August 23, 2019	<p>The number of people enrolled in Medicaid expansion in Louisiana dipped again in August by about 4,300 people, continuing a months-long slide in enrollment as the state sends out the latest batch of wage verification letters that are part of a stricter enrollment system.</p>