



Unwinding Continuous Eligibility Requirements in Oregon

January 2023



Through the Public Health Emergency (PHE), people have had continuous Medicaid coverage



Family First Coronavirus Response Act

1. Provides continuous Medicaid coverage for the duration of the federal public health emergency.
2. Removes administrative barriers to enrollment

When the continuous eligibility requirement ends, states will have to redetermine eligibility for **all** members.

Oregon will redetermine eligibility for all 1.4 million people on the Oregon Health Plan.

Implications of the FY23 Omnibus Bill

- President Joe Biden signed the FY23 Continuing Appropriations Act in late December 2022 which funds the federal government and programs at approx. \$1.67 trillion through September 30, 2023.
- The law also included language which gave notice to states related to continuous coverage eligibility for medical and also Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Emergency Allotment (SNAP EA).
 - These were originally tied to the federal declaration of ending the public health emergency and this law no longer uses the federal public health emergency as the driver for when states should take action.

Implications of the FY23 Omnibus Bill

The new law:

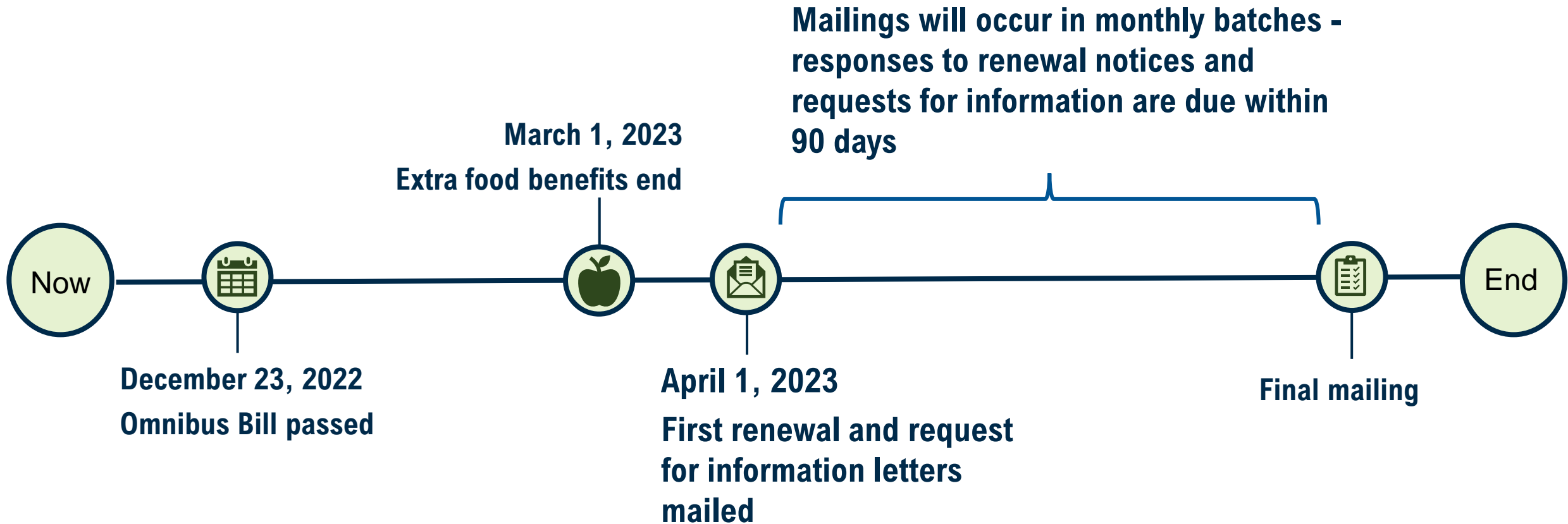
- Requires states to maintain continuous coverage eligibility policies for medical through March 31, 2023, as well as guides states to begin initiating renewals, post-enrollment verification, etc., on April 1, 2023, and over a 12-month period.
- Provides new reporting requirements for states over the Unwind transition period and requires states to maintain updated contact information for beneficiaries.
- Requires continuous coverage of youth under age 19 for 12 months regardless of change in circumstances. Note: Oregon's 2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Demonstration waiver allows for continuous enrollment from birth until age 6 and enrollment for 24 months for youth 6 years and older.
- Makes the postpartum continuous coverage option permanent.
- Sunsets the SNAP EA with the February 2023 issuance.

Implications of the FY23 Omnibus Bill

What does this mean?

- OHA and ODHS are now planning to initiate/process renewals on the new federal timeline and in accordance with HB 4035 (Oregon state law).
- OHA and ODHS continue to learn and adapt to new information as it becomes available. Oregonians will be informed what they need to keep their coverage.
- OHA and ODHS will be updating communications and plans including training timelines for the eligibility workforce, etc.
- There may be other program/eligibility provisions that are still connected to the PHEU or due to Oregon strategies. This is still being researched for understanding, and we will provide more information as it becomes available.

Redeterminations Timeline



The Goal: Preserve Benefits

1

Ensure all people and families eligible for benefits offered through the ONE system receive and continue to receive services in a timely manner without interruption


2

Give those no longer eligible for benefits clear direction and coordination of additional resources

3

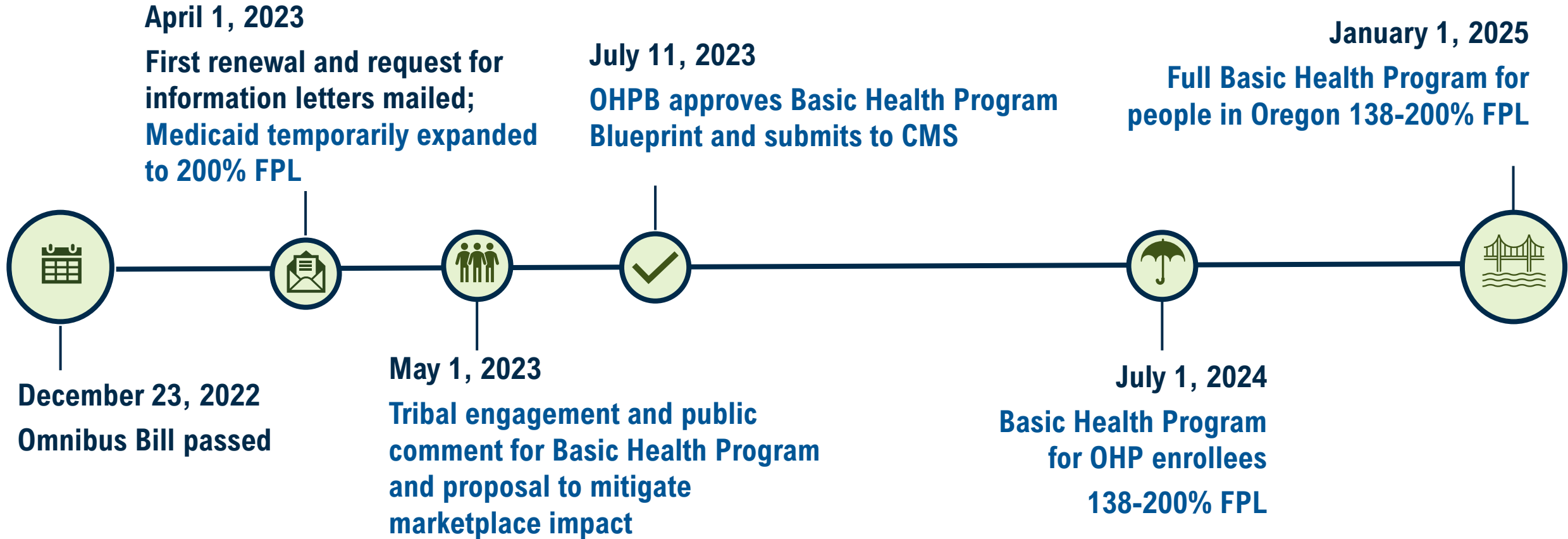
Give those who assist people receiving benefits clear information about how they can help



	Before Continuous Eligibility Ends	Ending Notice	Renewal Period
	Spring 2022 – Jan. 2023	Feb. – April 2023	Beginning April 2023
Calls To Action for Benefit Recipients	<p>Encourage people receiving benefits to update their contact information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let people receiving benefits know what to expect and how to prepare. • Reinforce importance and urgency of updating contact information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let people receiving benefits know what they need to do to maintain coverage and benefits or seek other services. • Encourage people receiving benefits to respond to renewal notices right away.
General Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip internal staff with scripts and supporting materials to use in every client interaction. • Share information and tools with community partners, providers and assisters so they can help those they serve navigate changes. • Reach people through broad and targeted awareness campaigns, preferred channels, and trusted senders to meet them where they are with the information they need when they need it. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with the Marketplace and SHIBA to ensure people who lose OHP are supported in their transition to a private plan or to Medicare. • Promote the Bridge Plan as an option for those who do not qualify for OHP and cannot access Marketplace plans.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ongoing training and resources for eligibility workforce so they have the tools they need to help with renewals and answer questions. • Solicit and use partner, benefit recipient and Community and Partner Work Group (CPWG) feedback to identify and address equity issues and improve PHE-U efforts. 			



Bridge Program Timeline



This timeline is based on the assumption that Oregon will begin renewals on April 1, 2023.

Questions