



OHIO'S JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES SYSTEM

Joel Potts, Executive Director

What is “Unwinding”?

Unwinding is the term being utilized at the state and federal level to describe the process of ending certain federal pandemic benefits impacting the Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – also often referred to as Food Stamps) and returning to pre-pandemic eligibility processes

SNAP

There are currently 738,000 households (representing 1.4 million Ohioans) receiving SNAP benefits in Ohio.

Throughout the pandemic, each household eligible for SNAP has been receiving at least an additional \$95 per month, often referred to as an “emergency allotment” or “maximum benefit”.

Federal SNAP Pandemic Support provisions will end in March (as mandated in the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act passed in December, 2022)

SNAP UNWINDING IMPACT

Beginning in March, Ohio will no longer be issuing enhanced Pandemic SNAP benefits.

This change will result in an immediate decrease of \$126 million in SNAP benefit issuance and purchasing power in Ohio grocery stores and farmers markets

Most significantly impacted clients and retailers will be in our poorest regions of the state - including inner city and Appalachian communities

SNAP UNWINDING CONTINUED

All SNAP households will see a minimum decrease in benefits of \$95 per month

Most significant immediate impact likely to be seniors and disabled individuals on fixed incomes who normally receive \$23 per month have been receiving a pandemic-era allotment of \$281 per month.

Working families of 3 normally entitled to \$180 per month have been receiving an additional \$560 per month.

SNAP UNWINDING CONTINUED

The state and counties have been working diligently to notify clients and the community of the pending changes to SNAP benefit allotments

The key date in SNAP Unwinding will be on **March 25** (the 25th of the month is the date clients have been receiving their additional allotments)

We anticipate a substantial increase in volume of residents contacting the county agencies seeking information and assistance through the end of April

MEDICAID

The Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration at the federal level did not permit states to disenroll individuals from the Medicaid program unless they 1) died, 2) moved out of state, or 3) requested to be disenrolled.

As a result, the normal churn of individuals we see exit and reenter to the program due to normal eligibility factors has not occurred.

The Ohio Medicaid caseload is 3.5 million, as of January 2023.

MEDICAID UNWINDING IMPACT

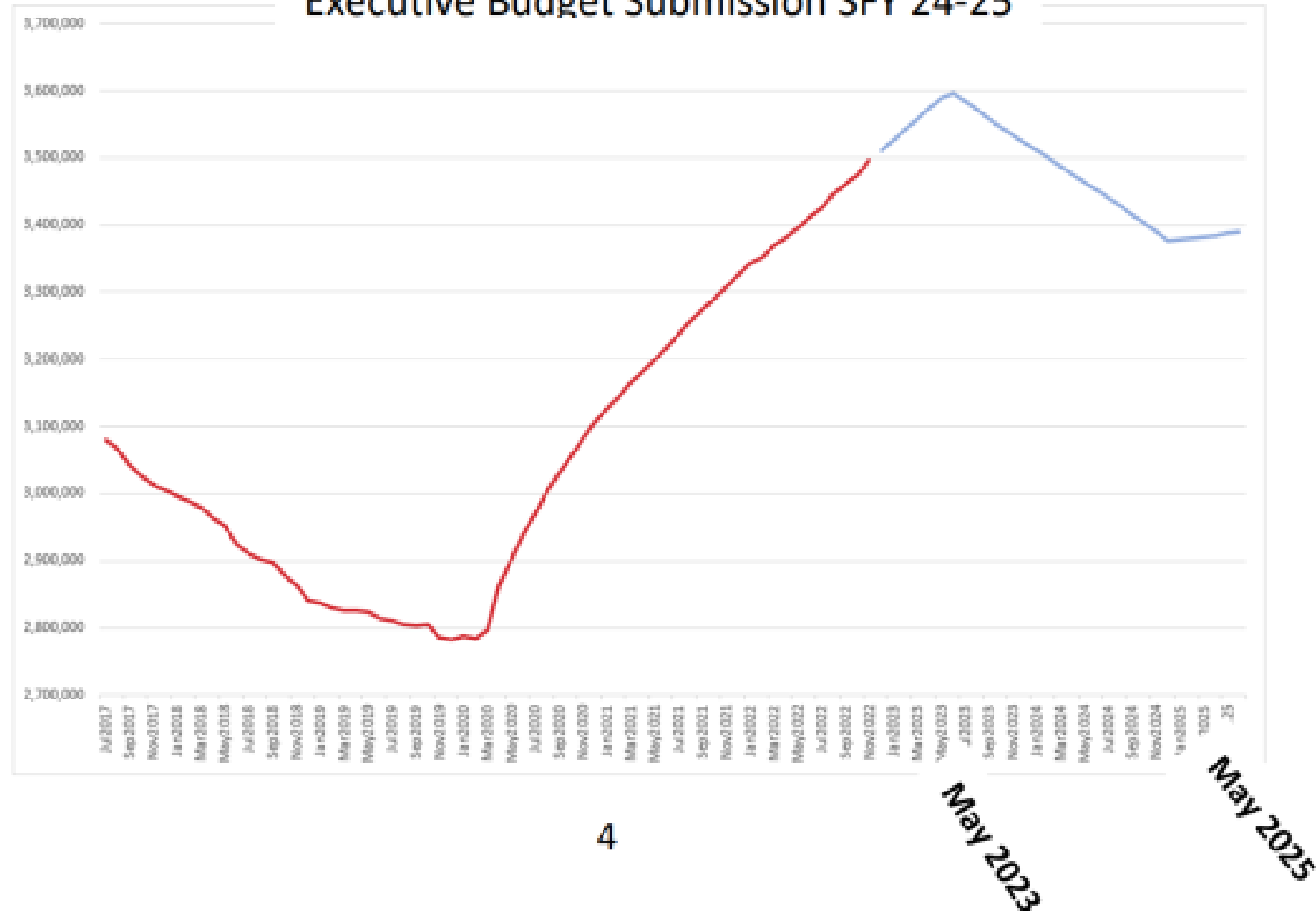
Over the next 12 months all Medicaid clients will need to go through a redetermination process utilizing post-PHE eligibility criteria

A significant number of current Medicaid covered individuals are expected to be deemed ineligible for the state healthcare program (the Ohio Department of Medicaid anticipates 220,000 clients to be disenrolled during this period)

Medicaid Caseload SFY 2018-2025

Executive Budget Submission SFY 24-25

3.6 million



MEDICAID UNWINDING CONTINUED

The biggest caseload decline is anticipated for low-income adults

Caseloads for the aged, blind and disabled populations and dual eligibles (those eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare) are expected to remain steady

WHAT'S NEXT

With both programs experiencing unprecedented changes in such a short amount of time, we anticipate an unparalleled number of calls and visits to county agencies for requests for assistance

County agencies will be vigilant in ensuring Ohioans are receiving the benefits they are entitled to, while also ensuring program integrity

JFS agencies are diligently attempting to educate the public and consumers of the pending changes

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WHAT'S NEXT

County agencies will also be directing clients to other services which may be helpful as they adjust to the changes in these programs, including workforce development, job placements, and other community resources and programs like financial literacy, OSU extension, and more.

Contact us anytime

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