

# First Friday Forum

HCA Update  
Jan 6, 2023

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# Agenda

Health Care Authority (HCA) Updates

Public Health Emergency

Program Spotlight:  
Apple Health for Workers with Disabilities (HWD)

Medicare Savings Program

Alumni

# Agenda

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After-Pregnancy Coverage (APC)

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# HCA Updates

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# Volunteer Assister Updates



## The Volunteer Assister training is updated!

The Health Care Authority (HCA) Volunteer Assister program enables community partners affiliated with a community-based organization to gain access to Washington Healthplanfinder and help Apple Health (Medicaid) applicants and recipients complete applications.

Check out the new [HCA community-based training](#)! HCA has updated the first six training modules for volunteer assisters. Learn about household composition, eligibility factors, and Washington Healthplanfinder system functionality, to help your clients with their Apple Health.

## How do I become a volunteer assister?

To become a volunteer assister, individuals must take a seven-module training, complete and pass a knowledge test and apply for access. Visit [HCA's community-based training webpage](#) to start the process today!

If you have questions about how to become a volunteer assister, contact [hcavolunteerassister@hca.wa.gov](mailto:hcavolunteerassister@hca.wa.gov).

- ▶ The first six training modules of the HCA-community based training have been updated.
- ▶ Module 7, the Annual Security Training will be updated and posted Spring 2023.

Check out our community-based training page!

[hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-need-medical-dental-or-vision-care/community-based-training](https://hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-need-medical-dental-or-vision-care/community-based-training)

# Health Fair Event Requests

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- ▶ Want HCA to join your health fair or community event?
  - ▶ Contact HCA Apple Health Communications  
[ahcommunications@hca.wa.gov](mailto:ahcommunications@hca.wa.gov)



# Intake Changes for Special Applications

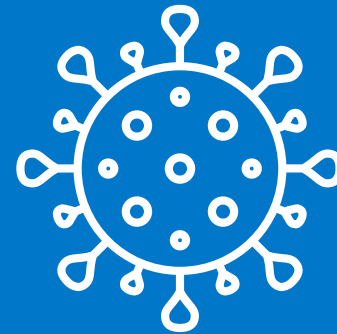
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- ▶ For questions or to apply for the following application types, use the new method listed.

Application Type	Previous Method	New Method
<b>Deceased apps</b>	<b>Email:</b> Jessica Cottom <b>Fax:</b> RightFax	<b>Fax:</b> 1-866-841-2267 <b>Attn:</b> Health Care Authority; MEDS <b>RE:</b> Deceased Application <b>Phone:</b> 1-855-682-0798
<b>Homeless Teens</b>	<b>Email:</b> Jessica Cottom <b>Fax:</b> RightFax	<b>Email:</b> AskMAGI@hca.wa.gov <b>Phone:</b> 1-855-682-0798
<b>K01 Apps</b>	<b>Email:</b> K01app@hca.wa.gov	<b>Email:</b> K01app@hca.wa.gov <b>Phone:</b> 1-855-682-0798
<b>RMA/Iraqi and Afghan immigrants</b>	<b>Email:</b> hcawahrmaaps@hca.wa.gov <b>Fax:</b> RightFax	<b>Email:</b> hcawahrmaaps@hca.wa.gov <b>Phone:</b> 1-855-682-0798

# Public Health Emergency (PHE)

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# Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023

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- ▶ HCA is still assessing the impacts of this bill on the PHE unwind plan and other program areas, here is what we know so far :
  - ▶ Does not end the PHE. States still expect a 60-day notice from HHS on when the PHE is ending.
  - ▶ The bill decouples the Families First Coronavirus Response Act continuous eligibility requirement from the PHE effective 4/1/2023.
  - ▶ Makes permanent the After-Pregnancy Coverage by allowing states to offer 12 months of coverage for postpartum individuals.
  - ▶ Requires all states to provide 12 months continuous eligibility to children.
  - ▶ In 2025, requires states to provide specific services to youth 30 days prior and post release from an institutional setting.

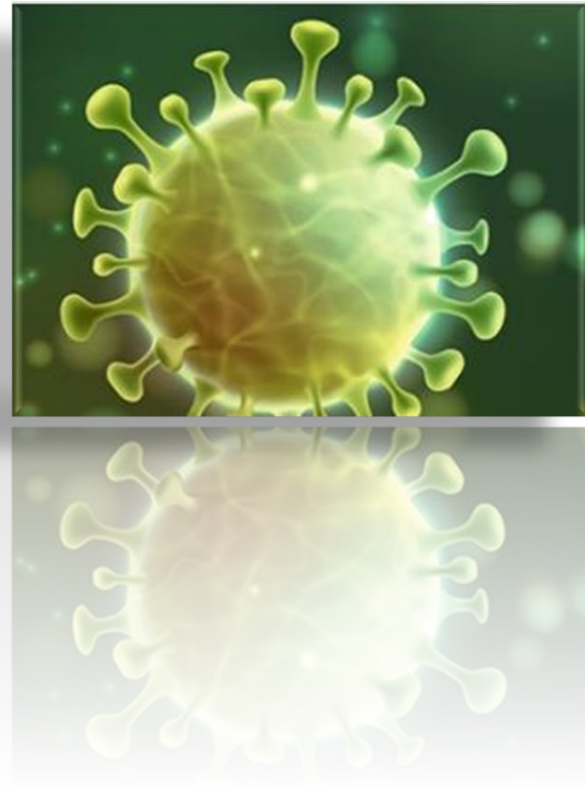
# Public Health Emergency

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- ▶ Health and Human Services (HHS) will provide states with 60 days' notice prior to the PHE ending.
- ▶ The Public Health Emergency (PHE) is currently set to expire January 11, 2023.

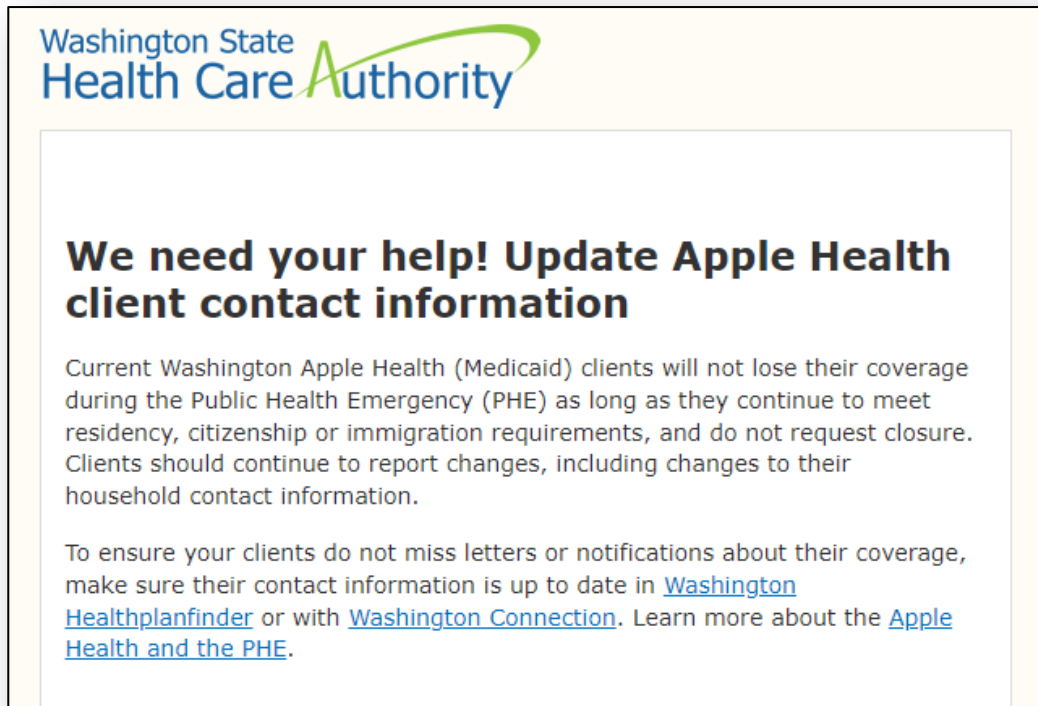
Source:

[https://f.datasrvr.com/fr1/621/80970/PHE\\_Extension.HHS letter to Governors.pdf](https://f.datasrvr.com/fr1/621/80970/PHE_Extension.HHS_letter_to_Governors.pdf)



# Updating Client Information

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- ▶ Make sure clients contact information is current in Washington Healthplanfinder, or Washington Connection.

Check out our GovDelivery bulletin!

[content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAHCA/bulletins/334db85](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAHCA/bulletins/334db85)

# Apple Health Ambassador Program

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- ▶ Apple Health Ambassador Program is a volunteer effort designed to raise awareness around actions that need to be taken by clients to maintain coverage at the end of the PHE by:
  - ▶ Sharing culturally and linguistically competent messaging to clients and community partners.
  - ▶ Strengthening community engagement and collaboration within the community.
- ▶ Interested community members and/or organizations can contact [AHeligCovid19@hca.wa.gov](mailto:AHeligCovid19@hca.wa.gov).

# External Guide to Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) Post-PHE

What happens to Apple Health eligibility  
during and after the expiration of the  
COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE)

## Post-PHE Guide

- ▶ HCA has drafted an external guide and a communications toolkit.
- ▶ The guide provides detailed information on post-PHE redeterminations and related work.
- ▶ The post-PHE materials are available at [hca.wa.gov/phe](https://hca.wa.gov/phe).

# PHE Unwind Campaign Graphics

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- ▶ HCA is sharing our PHE unwind campaign graphics in preparation for the end of the PHE.
  - ▶ These graphics are intended to create visual recognition for Apple Health (Medicaid) clients and stakeholders for PHE unwind communications.
  - ▶ Information about how to use this image can be found in the [End of PHE communication toolkit](#)\*.



\*Source: [hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/end-of-phe-communications-toolkit.pdf](https://hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/end-of-phe-communications-toolkit.pdf)

# COVID-19 Resources

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- ▶ Apple Health eligibility and COVID-19:
  - ▶ [AHeligCovid19@hca.wa.gov](mailto:AHeligCovid19@hca.wa.gov)
- ▶ HCA information on COVID-19:
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/coronavirus](https://hca.wa.gov/coronavirus)
- ▶ Apple Health and the PHE:
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/phe](https://hca.wa.gov/phe)
- ▶ HCA Post -PHE External Guide:
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/external-guide-to-ah-post-phe.pdf](https://hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/external-guide-to-ah-post-phe.pdf)
- ▶ End of PHE communications toolkit:
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/end-of-phe-communications-toolkit.pdf](https://hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/end-of-phe-communications-toolkit.pdf)
- ▶ HCA reference guides:
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/reference-guides](https://hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/reference-guides)

# Program Spotlight: Apple Health for Workers with Disabilities (HWD)

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# HWD Background

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- ▶ Apple Health for Workers with Disabilities (HWD) is a program that supports individuals with disabilities who want to work.
- ▶ If an individual is eligible for one of the following programs, they may not be allowed to participate in HWD.
  - ▶ Apple Health for Adults
  - ▶ Apple Health for Pregnant Women
  - ▶ Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicaid; or
  - ▶ Medicaid Protections under section 1619 (b) of the Social Security Act.

# HWD Program

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- ▶ To qualify for HWD, an individual must:
  - ▶ Be a Washington State resident;
  - ▶ Meet federal disability requirements such as receiving SSI/SSDI or approved for non-grant medical assistance (NGMA); and
  - ▶ Be employed full or part-time (including self-employment).
- ▶ Once an individual is approved on HWD, they will have:
  - ▶ Less out-of-pocket costs, since the premium cannot exceed 7.5% of the total income; and
  - ▶ Categorically Needy (CN) Medicaid for 12 months, if the monthly premiums are paid.

# HWD Monthly Premiums

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- ▶ What income is counted for the premium?
  - ▶ Only the gross income of the individual is counted. If two spouses apply, each has their own premium based on their own income.
- ▶ How are premiums billed and paid?
  - ▶ The Office of Financial Recovery (OFR) sends billing invoice w/return envelope during the first week of the month following the month of coverage.
  - ▶ Payments are sent to OFR in Olympia.
  - ▶ OFR notifies HWD staff if premium payment falls 4 months behind.

# Calculating HWD Premiums

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- ▶ Two calculations are used to determine the monthly premium amount. The premium is the lesser of these two amounts:
  - ▶ 7.5% of total income; or
  - ▶ The total of:
    - 50% of unearned income above the SSI standard (CN/MN income standard of \$783);
    - 5% of (all) unearned income; and
    - 2.5% of earned income after deducting \$65.

# How to Apply for HWD

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- ▶ Online: [washingtonconnection.org](http://washingtonconnection.org)
- ▶ Mail an application for Aged, Blind, Disabled/Long - Term Care Coverage (HCA-18-005) to:  
DSHS  
PO Box 45826  
Olympia, WA 98504-5826
- ▶ For more information about HWD, call toll -free at 1-800-871-9275.

Note: Home and Community Services (HCS) has designated staff in each region to maintain HWD cases for individuals who receive HCS long term services and supports.

# HWD Resources

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- ▶ Apple Health for Workers with Disabilities Webpage
  - ▶ [dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/apple-health-workers-disabilities-hwd-program](https://dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/apple-health-workers-disabilities-hwd-program)
- ▶ Apple Health Manual - LTSS – Working Clients on Long-term Care Programs
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-help-others-apply-and-access-apple-health/working-clients-long-term-care-services-and-supports](https://hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-help-others-apply-and-access-apple-health/working-clients-long-term-care-services-and-supports)
- ▶ Apple Health for Workers with Disabilities Fact Sheet
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/22-333.pdf](https://hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/22-333.pdf)

# Medicare Savings Program (MSP)

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# Medicare Savings Program

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- ▶ Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) help low-income individuals with:
  - ▶ Medicare premiums and
  - ▶ Medicare deductibles, copayments and coinsurance
- ▶ To qualify, an individual must have or be eligible for Medicare Part A and have income and resources below a certain threshold.
- ▶ More information
  - ▶ HCA MSP webpage: [hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/medicare-savings-program](https://hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/medicare-savings-program)
  - ▶ MSP Flyer: [hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/22-500.pdf](https://hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/22-500.pdf)



# Resource Elimination

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- ▶ The resource limits for the Medicare Savings Program will be eliminated starting January 1, 2023.
- ▶ This change:
  - ▶ Allows more low-income Medicare recipients to qualify.
  - ▶ Simplifies the application and renewal process for low-income individuals receiving Medicare.

# How to Apply for MSP

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- ▶ Online: [washingtonconnection.org](http://washingtonconnection.org)
- ▶ Mail application to:  
DSHS  
Community Services Division - Customer Service Center  
PO Box 11699, Tacoma, WA 98411-6699
- ▶ Phone: Request an application by calling 1-877-501-2233.
- ▶ In-person: Visit your local Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) office.
  - ▶ Aged, Blind, or Disabled coverage: [DSHS Community Services Office](#)\*
  - ▶ Long-term Services and Supports: [Home and Community Services Office](#)\*

\*Source: [dshs.wa.gov/office-locations](http://dshs.wa.gov/office-locations)

# MSP Resources

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- ▶ HCA MSP webpage:
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/medicare-savings-program](https://hca.wa.gov/medicare-savings-program)
- ▶ HCA MSP flyer:
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/22-500.pdf](https://hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/22-500.pdf)
- ▶ Paper application: Application for Aged, Blind, Disabled/ Long-term Care Coverage (HCA 18-005).
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/18-005.pdf](https://hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/18-005.pdf)
- ▶ DSHS and HCS office locator:
  - ▶ [dshs.wa.gov/office-locations](https://dshs.wa.gov/office-locations)

# Alumni

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# Alumni Expansion Background

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- ▶ States must provide Medicaid to former foster youth who are under 26 and aged out of foster care at the age of 18, in the same state.
- ▶ Section 1002 of the Support Act ensures continuity of coverage for former foster care youth who aged out of foster care, regardless of the state the Alumni lived in at the time they aged-out of foster care.
- ▶ Washington Healthplanfinder application will implement the Alumni expansion beginning with new foster care questions in early 2023.

# Impacted Alumni Population

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- ▶ This change impacts three groups of 18–26-year-olds.
  - ▶ Washington foster care youth enrolled in extended foster care until age 21 will then transition to Alumni coverage through age 26.
  - ▶ Washington foster care youth who did not enroll in extended foster care, at the age of 18 will transition to Alumni coverage through age 26.
  - ▶ Individuals who aged out of foster care in another state but now lives in Washington and is between the ages of 18-26.

# Expanding Apple Health

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# Expanding Apple Health

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- ▶ HCA is exploring options on expanding Apple Health eligibility for those who are age 19 and older, uninsured, and do not qualify for other Apple Health programs based on immigration status.
- ▶ HCA is working on a comprehensive outreach plan and will share more as it becomes available.
- ▶ Anticipated implementation date is January 1, 2024.
- ▶ Visit [hca.wa.gov/ah-expansion](https://hca.wa.gov/ah-expansion) for more information.



# After-Pregnancy Coverage (APC)

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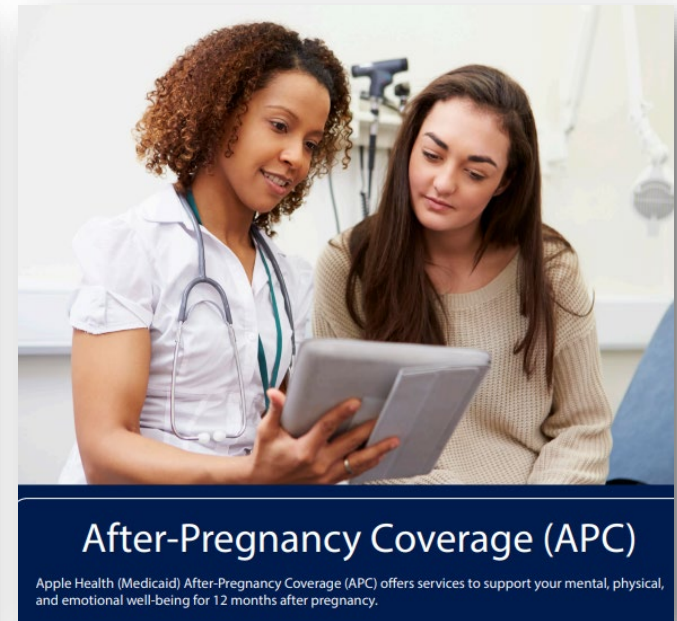
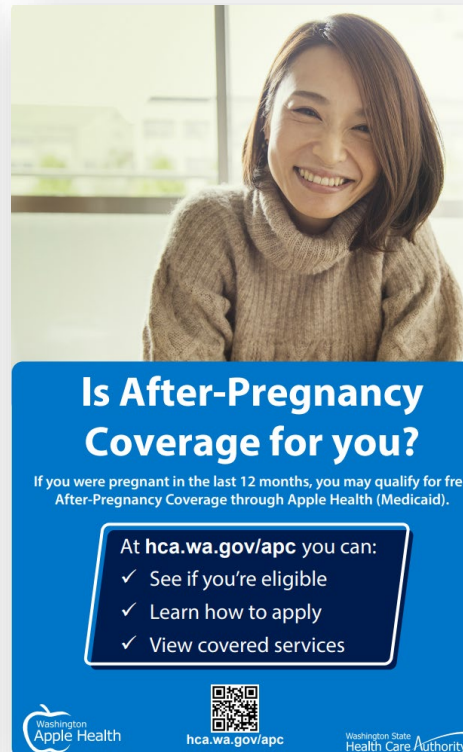


# APC Eligibility Pathways

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- ▶ Individuals who are on an Apple Health program and report a pregnancy will automatically transition to the postpartum extension for 12 months after the end of their pregnancy.
- ▶ Individuals not on Apple Health during their pregnancy may be eligible for APC when they apply for coverage within 12 months of their last pregnancy.
- ▶ Learn more at [hca.wa.gov/apc](https://hca.wa.gov/apc)

# APC Outreach Tools



APC Flyer

APC poster

Social media toolkit

# APC Resources

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- ▶ Pregnant Individuals Eligibility webpage:
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/apple-health-pregnant-individuals](https://hca.wa.gov/apple-health-pregnant-individuals)
- ▶ After-Pregnancy Coverage webpage:
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/apc](https://hca.wa.gov/apc)
- ▶ Request the APC social media toolkit:
  - ▶ Email: [social@hca.wa.gov](mailto:social@hca.wa.gov).

# Consumer Notices Workgroup



# Consumer Notices Workgroup

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- ▶ The Washington Apple Health Consumer Notices Workgroup\* includes consumers, advocates, and agency representatives.
- ▶ This collaboration focuses on improving Apple Health notices in Washington Healthplanfinder.

\*Source: [hca.wa.gov/about-hca/apple-health-medicaid/consumer-notices-workgroup](https://hca.wa.gov/about-hca/apple-health-medicaid/consumer-notices-workgroup)

# Retro

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# MAGI Retro

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Oldest received date	Cases to be worked
12/28/2022	2



# Resources

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# HCA King County Policy Rep

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- ▶ King County Representative
  - ▶ Heather Chrzan
  - ▶ Email: [heather.chrzan@hca.wa.gov](mailto:heather.chrzan@hca.wa.gov)
  - ▶ Phone: (360)-725-1513
  - ▶ Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 7:00am – 5:30pm
- ▶ HCA Area Representatives
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/area\\_representatives.pdf](http://hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/area_representatives.pdf)
- ▶ HCA Community-Based Specialists
  - ▶ [hca.wa.gov/hcacomunitystaff](http://hca.wa.gov/hcacomunitystaff)

# GovDelivery

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## Subscription Topics

- ☐ Apple Health (Medicaid) programs and eligibility
  - ☒ General information and updates 
  - ☒ COFA Islander programs 

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Washington State  
Health Care Authority

You can now follow HCA on Instagram  
**@wa\_health\_care**



# Questions

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- ▶ **MEDS email:**

- ▶ [AskMAGI@hca.wa.gov](mailto:AskMAGI@hca.wa.gov)

- ▶ **Managed Care questions:**

- ▶ [HCAMCPrograms@hca.wa.gov](mailto:HCAMCPrograms@hca.wa.gov)

- ▶ **Email verification:**

- ▶ [Apple@hca.wa.gov](mailto:Apple@hca.wa.gov)

- ▶ **Data requests:**

- ▶ [HCADData@hca.wa.gov](mailto:HCADData@hca.wa.gov)