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UCare invests to support Medicaid members impacted by end of Public Health Emergency (PHE)

Funding to health systems and community clinics targets outreach and education programs enabling Medicaid recipients to stay covered

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 25, 2023 — Anticipating a significant impact on Minnesotans enrolled in Medicaid once continuous coverage expires on Mar. 31, UCare is proactively providing grants to 16 Minnesota care systems, community organizations and community clinics serving Medicaid members. UCare funding touches all regions of the state including providers such as CentraCare, Essentia Health, Mayo Clinic and Olmsted Medical Center. The grants fund comprehensive coverage retention programs, outreach to update member contact information and help navigating the redetermination process.

UCare's funding accelerates provider programs such as Allina Health's robust communication and outreach activities for Medicaid members. Another example is a grant to CAPI to help their immigrant, refugee and BIPOC clients navigate the redetermination and renewal processes. At North Point and Minnesota Community Care, UCare funds support culturally responsive outreach to educate the community on Medicaid eligibility changes. North Memorial Health is developing a customer communication/notification process and establishing a dedicated point of contact for all questions. UCare funding supports: hiring additional program liaison staff at North Memorial; bolstering its IT platform capabilities for customer identification and notification opportunities; and certifying team members as MNsure Navigators.

"We are working closely with provider and community partners to support the urgency of being prepared for resumption of renewal cycles for our members," says Ghita Worcester, UCare Executive Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer. "We are pleased to fund their tailored efforts addressing patients' individual needs in urban and rural settings to ensure no gap in coverage."

During the Public Health Emergency, Medicaid members were able to maintain continuous coverage and access to care during the pandemic. The end of continuous coverage will expire Mar. 31, per The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. Once

annual eligibility redeterminations resume, states are able to disenroll people who are no longer eligible for Medicaid. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) estimates as many as 15 million people nationwide may be impacted.* In Minnesota, that number is closer to 1.4 million people.** Those who lose Medicaid eligibility may be eligible for employer or MNsure individual and family plan coverage.

Reuben Moore, President and Executive Officer of grant recipient Minnesota Community Care shares his deepest gratitude. “Thank you UCare for this much-needed funding to support our mission and shared values of serving the community.”

Through a multi-pronged approach, UCare is also partnering with the MNsure Navigator organization, Portico HealthNet, to directly assist members who need application assistance. Portico is especially experienced at helping families and people who speak languages other than English renew their Medicaid eligibility or sign up for other insurance through the exchange. Internally, UCare is adding resources to its Keep Your Coverage team which assists members with the application process.

About UCare

[UCare](#) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to nearly 650,000 members throughout Minnesota and parts of western Wisconsin. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver Medicare, Medicaid and Individual & Family health plans.

The health plan addresses health care disparities and care access issues through a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for 13 consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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[*CMS presentation “Preparing for the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: What Partners Need to Know about Medicaid and CHIP Coverage,” May 2022](#)

[**MN Department of Human Services, Fast Facts, 2022 Legislative Session, “Minimizing disruptions in public health care coverage after the federal COVID-19 emergency ends,” March 2022.](#)