



# Removal of the Affordable Care Act Website from within Medicaid.gov

Access Assessment Report  
July 10, 2018

This report is accompanied by a blog post, providing context for the changes detailed here:  
[14-Page Affordable Care Act website removed from Medicaid.gov](#)

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[See WIP's Report Production Protocol for details of our review process](#)

### Classification of Web content alterations and changes in access to Web resources:

Classification	Changed in this report?
1. Altering or removing text and non-text content	Yes
2. Altering or removing links	Yes
3. Moving an entire webpage or collection of webpages or establishing redirects	Yes
4. Altering or removing an entire pertinent section of a webpage or collection of webpages	
5. Removing an entire webpage or document	Yes
6. Overhauling or removing an entire website	Yes
7. Altering or removing search engines and open data platforms	
8. Altering, removing, or deleting datasets	

The Sunlight Foundation's Web Integrity Project does not intend to assess any government agency's intentions in presenting the changes to webpages or other Web content that appear in this report.

# Removal of the Affordable Care Act Website from within Medicaid.gov

## Overview

In June 2018, the “Affordable Care Act” website, which contained fourteen webpages, was removed from within Medicaid.gov. The main page of the website, which was itself titled “Affordable Care Act,” had links to thirteen pages with topics related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that have also been removed. Medicaid.gov’s top menu previously listed a prominent link with the text “Affordable Care Act,” which served as a dropdown menu with links to the removed pages. Some of the removed pages contained information that is no longer found on Medicaid.gov, while other pages contained content that is related to content on pages that have been live on Medicaid.gov for close to two years. Most or all of the content from two of the removed pages can now be found elsewhere within Medicaid.gov. In particular, the content of one page that was linked from the “Affordable Care Act” page can now be found on a live page titled “Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions,” which contains information about provisions to fight Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse.

## Background

Agency details: Medicaid is a federal health insurance program run by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Medicaid.gov is the website for the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS), which, according to the [website](#), “is organized into seven groups that are responsible for the various components of policy development and operations for Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Basic Health Program (BHP).”

Communications about changes: The office has not proactively communicated about or explained the changes described within this report.

Known archives: A public Web archive for the “[medicaid.gov](#)” domain, collected by CMS, can be found at [https://wayback.archive-it.org/2651/\\*/https://www.medicaid.gov/](https://wayback.archive-it.org/2651/*/https://www.medicaid.gov/). Medicaid.gov links to these archives in the footer of all webpages within the domain.

## Description of Most Notable Changes

1. The “[Affordable Care Act](#)” website, which contained fourteen pages within the “[medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/](#)” subdomain, was removed from within Medicaid.gov.
  - a. The website’s main page ([Webpage 1](#)), which was itself titled “Affordable Care Act” and found at the URL [www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/index.html](http://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/index.html), contained information about the health care law, as well as links to sections of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and pages with information about Medicaid. It also contained information about and links to the other thirteen “Affordable Care Act” website’s informational pages, which covered topics relating to how the ACA changes Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) ([Table 1](#)). These thirteen pages have also been removed.

- b. The URL for the main page currently redirects to the Medicaid.gov homepage, which does not contain content that is related to what was on the main page.
  - c. A link to the “Affordable Care Act” page was removed from the website’s top menu (compare versions of the Medicaid.gov homepage from [May 28, 2018](#) and [June 4, 2018](#)).
2. The contents of eleven of the thirteen pages in the “medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/” subdomain, which were linked from the “Affordable Care Act” page, have been removed from the entirety of Medicaid.gov. Redirects have been established for eight of the thirteen removed pages, but their URLs now lead to pages that have been live on Medicaid.gov for years. The removed content pertained to topics such as “Eligibility,” “Financing,” “Information Technology Systems and Data,” “Coordination with Affordable Insurance Exchanges,” “Benefits,” and others. Links to these pages have similarly been removed from the website’s top menu.
3. One of the removed pages linked from the “Affordable Care Act” page was the “Coordination with Affordable Insurance Exchanges” page, which had information about the coordinated system of applying for coverage under Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Health Insurance Marketplace ([Webpage 2](#)). The content that was on this page, which is still accurate and relevant, has not been found elsewhere on Medicaid.gov.
4. Most or all of the content from two of the removed pages — the “Prevention of Chronic Disease” page (corresponding to the “Prevention” topic title listed in [Table 1](#)) and the “Program Integrity” page ([Webpage 3](#)) — has been moved to new pages within Medicaid.gov.

## Table of Contents

Report Section	Webpage Title	URL	Page Status
<a href="#">Webpage 1</a>	Affordable Care Act (main page)	<a href="http://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/index.html">www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/index.html</a>	Removed
<a href="#">Webpage 2</a>	Coordination with Affordable Insurance Exchanges	<a href="https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/exchanges/index.html">https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/exchanges/index.html</a>	Removed
<a href="#">Webpage 3</a>	Program Integrity (Content moved to: Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions)	<a href="https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/program-integrity/index.html">https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/program-integrity/index.html</a> (Currently: <a href="https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/affordable-care-act-program-integrity-provisions/index.html">https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/affordable-care-act-program-integrity-provisions/index.html</a> )	Removed (content live)

## Detailed Description of Changes in Access and Content

**Note:** Throughout the entire report, links to the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine’s (IAWM) versions of corresponding pages are provided for reference. IAWM displays time in GMT. WIP’s website monitoring software is used to find narrower time windows for changes as much as possible. In those instances, the IAWM version of the corresponding page from the nearest date is provided.

### Webpage 1: Affordable Care Act (main page)

- URL: [www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/index.html](http://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/index.html)
  - Redirects to URL: <https://www.medicaid.gov/>
- Page removed between **June 2, 2018** and **June 9, 2018**, according to WIP’s monitoring software
  - See IAWM snapshot from before removal ([May 28, 2018](#)) and of redirect after removal ([June 9, 2018](#)).
- The [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Archive](#): a recent previous version of this page from [May 28, 2018](#) is available in the archive.
- This page was the main page of the “Affordable Care Act” website within Medicaid.gov. [Table 1](#) assesses the status of pages that were linked from this page and the existence of ACA content elsewhere on Medicaid.gov. [Webpage 2](#) and [Webpage 3](#), below, are two representative examples of the thirteen other pages from the “Affordable Care Act” website, all of which were previously within the “medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/” subdomain.

#### **Webpage 1 Details:**

##### **Removed content on the “Affordable Care Act” page**

1. The “Affordable Care Act” page was removed between June 2, 2018 and June 9, 2018.
2. The page’s URL, [www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/index.html](http://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/index.html), currently redirects to the Medicaid.gov homepage ([June 9, 2018](#)).
3. The top portion of the page ([Screenshot 1.1](#)) included the following text: *(Note: Except for the last two links, all other links found in the following text currently lead to pages that have not been removed, not changed, or not changed significantly since the beginning of June 2018. The last two links were also found in the lower portion of the page, which is described in #4 below, and the status of each link is described in [Table 1](#)).*

[“See Affordable Care Act Federal Policy Guidance.](#)

The Affordable Care Act provides Americans with better health security by putting in place comprehensive health insurance reforms that will:

- Expand coverage,
- Hold insurance companies accountable,
- Lower health care costs,

- Guarantee more choice, and
- Enhance the quality of care for all Americans.

The Affordable Care Act actually refers to two separate pieces of legislation — the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152) — that, together expand Medicaid coverage to millions of low-income Americans and makes numerous improvements to both [Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#).

This section focuses on the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act related to Medicaid and CHIP. If you are interested in the law as a whole, you can:

- Read the [Compilation of the Affordable Care Act](#) (PDF 0 bytes), or
- [Review the law by section](#).

Since the new law was enacted in March 2010, CMS has worked together with state partners to identify key implementation priorities and provide the guidance needed to prepare for the significant changes to Medicaid and CHIP took effect on January 1, 2014. In particular, CMS has provided several forms of guidance and federal support for state efforts to develop new or upgrade existing [eligibility systems](#).

In March 2012, CMS released two final rules defining the [eligibility and enrollment policies](#) needed to achieve a seamless system of coverage for individuals who became eligible for Medicaid in 2014, as well as eligibility and enrollment for the new Affordable Insurance Exchanges. The final rules establish the framework for States' implementation of the eligibility expansion going forward. A specific description of all of the major Medicaid and CHIP-related provisions of the Affordable Care Act as well as related policy guidance can be found below.”

4. The lower portion of the page ([Screenshot 1.2](#)) listed topics and brief descriptions pertaining to Medicaid- and CHIP-related provisions of the Affordable Care Act, with links to corresponding pages within the “[medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/](#)” subdomain (see [Table 1](#) below for an assessment of access to pages corresponding to each link listed in this section).
  - a. The entire “[medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/](#)” subdomain, which contained each of the linked URLs, was removed.
  - b. All but one link currently either leads to a removed page with an “Error: Page Not Found” message or corresponds to a URL that redirects to a page that has been live for a year or longer.
    - i. The ACA is not mentioned in the main body of text on all but one of the pages that are redirected to.
  - c. The page corresponding to the link with the text “Program Integrity” is still live, but the former URL redirects to a new URL within the “[medicaid.gov/medicaid/](#)” subdomain.

5. The page included two blue side panels ([Screenshot 1.1](#)) with:
  - a. An interactive element titled “Find Medicaid and CHIP program information by state,” with a dropdown menu to select a particular state.
  - b. A link that led to a page titled “[Medicaid & You: Frequently Asked Questions](#)” (May 28, 2018).

**Changes in access to the “Affordable Care Act” page and topic-specific webpages linked from the “Affordable Care Act” page**

6. Between [May 7, 2018](#) and May 11, 2018 (IAWM snapshot from [May 14, 2018](#)), a link for the “Affordable Care Act” page was removed from the Medicaid.gov Site Map. The “Affordable Care Act” link was listed as a header on the “Site Map,” and links with the same link text and URLs as those listed on the “Affordable Care Act” page (see [Table 1](#)) appeared below that header. (*Note: This date range does not overlap with the date range specified for the removal of the “Affordable Care Act” page and other pages removed from the “Affordable Care Act” website, nor with the date range for the removal of the “Affordable Care Act” header described in #7 below. The removal of links from the “Site Map” happened prior to these removals.*)
  - a. A link for the “Affordable Care Act Provisions” page, which has most of the same content as the removed “Prevention of Chronic Disease” page (item #8, [Table 1](#)) is still listed on the “Site Map” with the link text “Affordable Care Act,” a sub-bullet of “Prevention” under the “Medicaid” header ([June 18, 2018](#))
7. Between June 2, 2018 and June 4, 2018, the “Affordable Care Act” header was removed from the Medicaid.gov top menu. The dropdown menu included links with the same URLs as the links listed in [Table 1](#) and on the “Site Map,” although the link text in the dropdown was not identical the link text in the “Site Map.”
  - a. These dates were determined according to a combination of WIP’s monitoring software and IAWM; see IAWM snapshots for version of the Medicaid.gov homepage before the change ([May 28, 2018](#)) and after the change ([June 4, 2018](#)).

**Table 1: Links listed on “Affordable Care Act” page and corresponding status of linked pages.** The following table details the links and corresponding linked pages associated with topics listed on the “Affordable Care Act” page. All URLs that do not redirect lead to an “Error: Page Not Found” message. All changes to the corresponding webpages or URLs of the listed links occurred between May 28, 2018 and June 14, 2018.

Index	Topic title	Corresponding Link URL	Page status	Last IAWM version	Does URL currently redirect?	First IAWM version of redirect page <sup>1</sup>	Does ACA appear in body of redirect page?	If no redirect, is content elsewhere on Medicaid.gov?
1	Eligibility	<a href="https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/eligibility/index.html">https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/eligibility/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	5/28/18	Yes; to different “Eligibility” page	<a href="#">10/17/16</a>	Yes	N/A

2	Financing	<a href="https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/financing/index.html">https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/financing/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	No	N/A	N/A	<a href="#">Partially</a> <sup>2</sup>
3	Information Technology Systems and Data	<a href="https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/it-systems/index.html">https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/it-systems/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	Yes; to “ <a href="#">Data and Systems</a> ” page	<a href="#">10/17/16</a>	No	N/A
4	Coordination with Affordable Insurance Exchanges	<a href="https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/exchanges/index.html">https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/exchanges/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	No	N/A	N/A	<a href="#">Partially</a> <sup>3</sup>
5	Benefits	<a href="https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/benefits/index.html">https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/benefits/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	Yes; to different “ <a href="#">Benefits</a> ” page	<a href="#">10/13/16</a>	No	N/A
6	Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports	<a href="https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/cb-ltss/index.html">https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/cb-ltss/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	Yes; to “ <a href="#">Long Term Services and Support</a> ” page	<a href="#">10/17/16</a>	No	N/A
7	Quality of Care and Delivery Systems	<a href="https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/quality/index.html">https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/quality/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	Yes; to “ <a href="#">Quality of Care</a> ” page	<a href="#">10/17/16</a>	No	N/A
8	Prevention	<a href="https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/prevention/index.html">https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/prevention/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	Yes; to different “ <a href="#">Prevention</a> ” page	<a href="#">10/17/16</a>	No	Yes <sup>4</sup>
9	Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	<a href="https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/chip/index.html">https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/chip/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	Yes; to different “ <a href="#">Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)</a> ” page	<a href="#">6/12/17</a> <sup>5</sup>	No	N/A
10	Dual Eligibles	<a href="https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/dual-eligibles/index.html">https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/dual-eligibles/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	No	N/A	N/A	<a href="#">Partially</a> <sup>6</sup>
11	Provider Payments	<a href="https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/provider-payments/index.html">https://www.medicare.gov/affordable-care-act/provider-payments/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	No	N/A	N/A	Linked PDFs are live but access to them



		<a href="#">vider-payments/index.html</a>						has been reduced <sup>7</sup>
12	Program Transparency	<a href="https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/transparency/index.html">https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/transparency/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	No	N/A	N/A	<a href="#">Partially</a> <sup>8</sup>
13	Program Integrity	<a href="https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/program-integrity/index.html">https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/program-integrity/index.html</a>	Removed (6/14/18)	<a href="#">5/28/18</a>	Yes; to an almost identical “ <a href="#">Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions</a> ” page	<a href="#">6/11/18</a>	Yes	N/A

<sup>1</sup> “Redirect page” refers to the the page which the listed link URL now redirects to, and the dates listed in this column indicate the first time that the page was saved to IAWM.

<sup>2</sup> Some information from the removed “Financing” page is listed under a section called “Affordable Care Act Enhances Federal CHIP Funding” on a different “[Financing](#)” page in the [medicaid.gov/chip](http://www.medicaid.gov/chip) subdomain that is still live. The URL for the removed “Financing” page does not redirect to the currently live “Financing” page.

<sup>3</sup> The “[Medicaid and CHIP FAQs: Coordination between Medicaid/CHIP and the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace](#)” PDF has information about coordination between Medicaid/CHIP and the Affordable Insurance Exchanges, but does not include links to sections of the ACA as the removed page did. The FAQ can be found at the URL <https://www.medicaid.gov/State-Resource-Center/FAQ-Medicaid-and-CHIP-Affordable-Care-Act-Implementation/Downloads/FAQs-by-Topic-Coordination-with-Marketplace.pdf>, but it does not appear to be linked from elsewhere on the Medicaid website.

<sup>4</sup> This link redirects to another “Prevention” page that does not have the same content as the removed page, but the live “Prevention” page links to a page titled “Affordable Care Act Provisions” that has very similar content to the removed page.

<sup>5</sup> Pages corresponding to this URL were captured by the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine in [2012](#) and [2013](#), but the captures all show “Error: Page Not Found” messages (see snapshot from [December 31, 2012](#) as an example).

<sup>6</sup> The “[Seniors & Medicare and Medicaid Enrollees](#)” page does not include the same links as the removed page. The removed page focused on coordination of care for dual eligibles, which is not mentioned on the “Seniors & Medicare and Medicaid Enrollees” page.

<sup>7</sup> Links on the “Provider Payments” page with [medicaid.gov](http://www.medicaid.gov) domain URLs led to PDFs about “Increased Medicaid Payments for Primary Care Physicians.” These PDFs can still be found by searching their “Increased Payments for PCPs” in the Medicaid website search.

<sup>8</sup> The “[1115 Transparency Requirements](#)” page, which is still live, does not include the same links as the removed page.

**Screenshot 1.1:** The top portion of the [May 28, 2018](#) version of the “Affordable Care Act” page, captured by the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

The screenshot shows the top portion of the Medicaid.gov website. At the top, there is a Wayback Machine header with the URL <https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/index.html> and a date selector for May 28, 2018. Below this is the Medicaid.gov logo and navigation menu. The main content area features the title "Affordable Care Act" and a section titled "See Affordable Care Act Federal Policy Guidance." This section explains that the Affordable Care Act provides Americans with better health security by putting in place comprehensive health insurance reforms that will:

- Expand coverage,
- Hold insurance companies accountable,
- Lower health care costs,
- Guarantee more choice, and
- Enhance the quality of care for all Americans.

The text continues to explain that the Affordable Care Act actually refers to two separate pieces of legislation — the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152) — that, together expand Medicaid coverage to millions of low-income Americans and makes numerous improvements to both [Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#).

This section focuses on the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act related to Medicaid and CHIP. If you are interested in the law as a whole, you can:

- Read the [Compilation of the Affordable Care Act](#), or
- [Review the law by section.](#)

Since the new law was enacted in March 2010, CMS has worked together with state partners to identify key implementation priorities and provide the guidance needed to prepare for the significant changes to Medicaid and CHIP that took effect on January 1, 2014. In particular, CMS has provided several forms of guidance and federal support for state efforts to develop new or upgrade existing [eligibility systems](#).

In March 2012, CMS released two final rules defining the [eligibility and enrollment policies](#) needed to achieve a seamless system of coverage for individuals who became eligible for Medicaid in 2014, as well as eligibility and enrollment for the new Affordable Insurance Exchanges. The final rules establish the framework for States’ implementation of the eligibility expansion going forward. A specific description of all of the major Medicaid and CHIP-related provisions of the Affordable Care Act as well as related policy guidance can be found below.

On the right side of the page, there are two interactive elements: a "Find Medicaid and CHIP program information by state:" section with a dropdown menu for "Choose a State" and a "view state" button; and a "Medicaid and You Frequently Asked Questions" section with a speech bubble icon.

**Screenshot 1.2:** The bottom portion of the [May 28, 2018](#) version of the “Affordable Care Act” page, captured by the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

## Eligibility

Fills in current gaps in coverage for the poorest Americans by creating a minimum Medicaid income eligibility level across the country.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE ELIGIBILITY PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Financing

Beginning in 2014 coverage for the newly eligible adults will be fully funded by the federal government for three years. It will phase down to 90% by 2020.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE FINANCING PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Information Technology Systems and Data

Policy and financing structure designed to provide states with tools needed to achieve the immediate and substantial investment in information technology systems that is needed in order to ensure that Medicaid systems will be in place in time for the January 1, 2014 launch date or the new Affordable Insurance Exchanges as well as the expansion of Medicaid eligibility.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS AND DATA PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Coordination with Affordable Insurance Exchanges

This system enables individuals and families to apply for coverage using a single application and have their eligibility determined for all insurance affordability programs through one simple process.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE COORDINATION WITH AFFORDABLE INSURANCE EXCHANGES PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Benefits

People newly eligible for Medicaid will receive a benchmark benefit or benchmark equivalent package that includes the minimum essential benefits provided in the Affordable Insurance Exchanges.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE BENEFITS PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports

Includes a number of program and funding improvements to help ensure that people can receive long-term care services and supports in their home or the community.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE COMMUNITY-BASED LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Quality of Care and Delivery Systems

Improvements will be made in the quality of care and the manner in which that care is delivered while at the same time reducing costs.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE QUALITY OF CARE AND DELIVERY SYSTEMS PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Prevention

Promotes prevention, wellness and public health and supports health promotion efforts at the local, state and federal levels.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE PREVENTION PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Extends funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through FY 2015 and continues the authority for the program through 2019.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM \(CHIP\) PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Dual Eligibles

A new office will be created within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to coordinate care for individuals who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare (“dual eligibles” or Medicare-Medicaid enrollees)

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE DUAL ELIGIBLES PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Provider Payments

States will receive 100% federal matching funds for the increase in payments.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROVIDER PAYMENTS PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Program Transparency

Promotes transparency about Medicaid policies and programs including establishing meaningful opportunities for public involvement in the development of state and federal Medicaid waivers.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM TRANSPARENCY PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Program Integrity

Includes numerous provisions designed to increase program integrity in Medicaid, including terminating providers from Medicaid that have been terminated in other programs, suspending Medicaid payments based on pending investigations or credible allegations of fraud, and preventing inappropriate payment or claims under Medicaid.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM INTEGRITY PROVISION](#) [↗](#)

## Webpage 2: Coordination with Affordable Insurance Exchanges

- URL: <https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/exchanges/index.html>
- Page removed between **June 4, 2018** and **June 11, 2018**, according to WIP's monitoring software
  - See IAWM snapshot from before removal ([May 28, 2018](#)) and of redirect after removal ([June 14, 2018](#)).
- The [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Archive](#): a recent previous version of this page from [May 28, 2018](#) is available in the archive.
- This is a representative example of one of the fourteen removed pages from the "Affordable Care Act" website from within Medicaid.gov. This page provided information about the coordinated system of applying for coverage under Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Health Insurance Marketplace. The page was linked from the removed "Affordable Care Act" page ([Webpage 1, Table 1](#)).

### **Webpage 2 Details:**

#### **Removed content on the "Coordination with Affordable Insurance Exchanges" page**

1. The "Coordination with Affordable Insurance Exchanges" page was removed between June 4, 2018 and June 11, 2018.
2. The page's URL, <https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/exchanges/index.html>, leads to an "Error: Page Note Found" notice ([June 14, 2018](#)).
3. A link corresponding to this page was previously listed on the "Affordable Care Act" page ([Webpage 1, Table 1](#)).
4. The page included the following text and links ([Screenshot 2.1](#)), which include links to sections of the Affordable Care Act and other informational pages: *(Note: All of the links found in the following text currently lead to live pages. Only the last three links below have URLs within Medicaid.gov and lead to PDFs which include information about coordination of eligibility and enrollment between Medicaid, CHIP, and the Health Insurance Marketplace. While these PDFs are still live and can be found through searching the text associated with their links in the Medicaid.gov search, links to them have not been found on other Medicaid.gov pages.)*

"The Affordable Care Act creates a system of coverage between Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and [Affordable Insurance Exchanges](#). This system enables individuals and families to apply for coverage using a single application and have their eligibility determined for all insurance affordability programs through one simple process. In order to achieve this goal, federal funding is provided through a variety of venues to help states improve their eligibility and enrollment systems.

Areas of interest under this provision:

**Medicaid, CHIP, and Exchange Eligibility and Enrollment:** Creating a simple streamlined system of affordable coverage between Medicaid, CHIP, and Affordable Insurance Exchanges.

- Section 1413 under [Title I Quality, Affordable Health Care](#)
- Section 2201 under [Title II Role Of Public Programs](#)
- Proposed Rule [42 CFR Parts 431, 433, 435, and 457 "Medicaid Programs: Eligibility Changes Under the Affordable Care Act of 2010" - 8/17/11](#) [Document ID: CMS-2011-0139-0002]
- Proposed Rule [45 CFR Parts 155 and 157 "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Exchange Functions in the Individual Market: Eligibility Determinations: Exchange Standards for Employers" - 8/17/11](#) [Document ID: HHS-OS-2011-0024-0001]
- Proposed Rule [26 CFR Part 1 "Health Insurance Premium Tax Credit" - 8/17/11](#) [Document ID: IRS-2011-0024-0001]
- [Final Rule 26 CFR Parts 1 and 602 - 5/23/12](#)

**Eligibility Determination and Enrollment Systems:** Providing federal funding to streamline and upgrade Medicaid eligibility systems to assure a simple and seamless enrollment experience for consumers who qualify for Medicaid or who are shopping for health insurance in Affordable Insurance Exchanges.

- [Final Rule 42 CFR Part 433 - 4/19/11](#)
- [CMCS Informational Bulletin - 4/14/11](#)
- [Enhanced Funding Requirements: Seven Conditions and Standards 1.0 - 4/2011](#)
- Enhanced Funding Requirements: Expedited Advance Planning Document Checklist 1.0 - 4/2011
- [Guidance for Exchange and Medicaid Information Technology \(IT\) Systems 2.0 - 5/2011](#)

5. The page included a blue side panel with a link that led to a page titled "[Medicaid & You: Frequently Asked Questions](#)" (May 28, 2018).



**Screenshot 2.1:** The [May 28, 2018](#) version of the “Coordination with Affordable Insurance Exchanges” page, captured by the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

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Wayback Machine  
98 captures  
31 Oct 2016 - 14 Jun 2018

https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/exchanges/index.html Go APR MAY 28 JUN 2017 2018 2019

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## Coordination with Affordable Insurance Exchanges

The Affordable Care Act creates a system of coverage between Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and [Affordable Insurance Exchanges](#). This system enables individuals and families to apply for coverage using a single application and have their eligibility determined for all insurance affordability programs through one simple process. In order to achieve this goal, federal funding is provided through a variety of venues to help states improve their eligibility and enrollment systems.

[Medicaid and You Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Areas of interest under this provision:

**Medicaid, CHIP, and Exchange Eligibility and Enrollment:** Creating a simple streamlined system of affordable coverage between Medicaid, CHIP, and Affordable Insurance Exchanges.

- Section 1413 under [Title I Quality, Affordable Health Care](#)
- Section 2201 under [Title II Role Of Public Programs](#)
- Proposed Rule [42 CFR Parts 431, 433, 435, and 457 "Medicaid Programs: Eligibility Changes Under the Affordable Care Act of 2010" - 8/17/11](#) [Document ID: CMS-2011-0139-0002]
- Proposed Rule [45 CFR Parts 155 and 157 "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Exchange Functions in the Individual Market: Eligibility Determinations; Exchange Standards for Employers" - 8/17/11](#) [Document ID: HHS-OS-2011-0024-0001]
- Proposed Rule [26 CFR Part 1 "Health Insurance Premium Tax Credit" - 8/17/11](#) [Document ID: IRS-2011-0024-0001]
- [Final Rule 26 CFR Parts 1 and 602 - 5/23/12](#) (PDF 0 bytes)

**Eligibility Determination and Enrollment Systems:** Providing federal funding to streamline and upgrade Medicaid eligibility systems to assure a simple and seamless enrollment experience for consumers who qualify for Medicaid or who are shopping for health insurance in Affordable Insurance Exchanges.

- [Final Rule 42 CFR Part 433 - 4/19/11](#) (PDF 0 bytes)
- [CMCS Informational Bulletin - 4/14/11](#) (PDF 0 bytes)
- [Enhanced Funding Requirements: Seven Conditions and Standards 1.0 - 4/2011](#) (PDF 0 bytes)
- Enhanced Funding Requirements: Expedited Advance Planning Document Checklist 1.0 - 4/2011
- [Guidance for Exchange and Medicaid Information Technology \(IT\) Systems 2.0 - 5/2011](#) (PDF 0 bytes)

## Webpage 3: Program Integrity (Content moved to: Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions)

- URL: <https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/program-integrity/index.html>
  - Redirects to URL: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/affordable-care-act-program-integrity-provisions/index.html>
- Changes occurred between **June 2, 2018** and **June 14, 2018**, according to a combination of WIP's monitoring software and IAWM
  - See IAWM snapshot of previous version from [May 28, 2018](#) and redirect to new URL on [June 14, 2018](#).
  - First IAWM snapshot of the "Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions" captured on [June 11, 2018](#).
- The [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Archive](#): a recent previous version of this page from [May 28, 2018](#) is available in the archive.
- This is a representative example of one of the fourteen removed pages from the "Affordable Care Act" website from within Medicaid.gov. This is one of two pages for which the contents have been moved to another, live page within Medicaid.gov. The page was previously linked from the "Affordable Care Act" page ([Webpage 1](#), [Table 1](#)).

### **Webpage 3 Details:**

1. Between June 2, 2018 and June 9, 2018, the "Program Integrity" page ([Screenshot 3.1](#)) at the URL, <https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/program-integrity/index.html>, was removed and the URL began redirecting to a different page, also titled "Program Integrity," ([Screenshot 3.2](#)) at the URL <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/index.html>, according to WIP's monitoring software.
  - a. This page details broadly the CMS strategy to combat Medicaid provider fraud, waste, and abuse.
2. Between June 9, 2018 and [June 14, 2018](#), the following changes were made:
  - a. The content from the removed page was restored to a new URL <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/affordable-care-act-program-integrity-provisions/index.html> as early as [June 11, 2018](#). The title of the page at the new URL is "Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions" ([Screenshot 3.3](#)).
  - b. The previous URL began redirecting from <https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/program-integrity/index.html> to <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/affordable-care-act-program-integrity-provisions/index.html> between June 9, 2018 and June 14, 2018, according to a combination of WIP's monitoring software and IAWM.
3. Differences between the removed "Program Integrity" page and the live "Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions" page include:

- a. Breadcrumb<sup>1</sup> path reflects the different pages' URLs, reading "[Home](#) → [Affordable Care Act](#) → Program Integrity" (May 28, 2018) instead of "[Home](#) → [Medicaid](#) → [Program Integrity](#) → Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions" (June 14, 2018) (compare highlighted breadcrumb trails at the top of the side-by-side pages in [Screenshot 3.3](#)).
  - b. Added a sidebar with a link that leads to the webpage itself with the text "Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions" (see right panel of the side-by-side pages in [Screenshot 3.3](#)).
  - c. Removed a sidebar with link text "Medicaid and You Frequently Asked Questions" and link URL <https://www.medicaid.gov/apply-for-coverage/faq/index.html> (June 25, 2018) (see left panel of the side-by-side pages in [Screenshot 3.3](#)).
  - d. Added a bulleted list that summarizes the "areas of interest" listed on the page (see right panel of the side-by-side pages in [Screenshot 3.3](#)):
    - Provider enrollment
    - Provider participation
    - Pending investigations of credible allegations of fraud
    - National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI)
    - Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs)
    - Home health
  - e. Changed the format of the header for each "area of interest" listed on the page so that the font is a different style and bigger than the rest of the text on the page (see right panel of the side-by-side pages in [Screenshot 3.3](#)).
  - f. Other small alterations were made to text throughout the page, but these alterations do not change the meaning of the text.
4. Unchanged content: The "Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions" page contains information about provisions under the Affordable Care Act designed to fight Medicaid provider fraud, waste, and abuse. [Screenshot 3.3](#) specifically shows a section about "Provider Enrollment" that has remained the same. Other sections not shown in [Screenshot 3.3](#) are also unchanged:
- a. Provider Participation: "provisions allows [sic] for the termination of the participation of individuals or entities under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program if they have been terminated under Medicare or any other Medicaid state plan."
  - b. Pending Investigations of Credible Allegations of Fraud: "provisions ensure that federal funding is not provided to individuals or entities when there is a pending investigation of a credible allegation of fraud unless the state determines that good cause exists not to suspend such payments."

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<sup>1</sup> **Note:** Wikipedia [defines](#) the breadcrumb trail as the part of a webpage that "tracks and displays each page viewed by a visitor of a website, either in the order the pages were viewed, or in other definitions, displaying a hierarchy of the current page in relation to the website's structure. Breadcrumbs are typically placed in horizontal form under the masthead or navigation of a website."



- c. National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI): “Incorporating “NCCI methodologies” in state Medicaid claims processing systems promotes national correct coding methodologies and reduces improper coding that may result in inappropriate payment of claims under Medicaid.”
- d. Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs): “Establishing Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs) provisions allow for auditing payments to Medicaid providers. Medicaid RACs will identify and recover provider overpayments and will also identify underpayments.”
- e. Home Health: “Home Health provisions document that a health care provider has had a face-to-face encounter with a patient prior to ordering the provision of home health services.”

**Screenshot 3.1:** The [May 28, 2018](https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/program-integrity/index.html) version of the “Program Integrity” page at the URL <https://www.medicaid.gov/affordable-care-act/program-integrity/index.html>, captured by the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

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## Program Integrity

The Affordable Care Act includes numerous provisions designed to increase program integrity in Medicaid, including terminating providers from Medicaid that have been terminated in other programs, suspending Medicaid payments based on pending investigations of credible allegations of fraud, and preventing inappropriate payment of claims under Medicaid.

Areas of interest under this provision:

**Provider Enrollment:** Screening and enrolling providers under requirements to increase program integrity in Medicaid and CHIP

- [Medicaid Provider Enrollment Compendium \(MPEC\) – effective 6/23/2017](#)
- [Fingerprint-based Criminal Background Checks \(FCBC\): Implementation Phase Guidance from April 6, 2016 Webinar](#)
- [Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions - Guidance to States -- Section 6501 - Termination of Provider Participation under Medicaid if Terminated under Medicare or other State Plan \(CPI –B 11-05\)](#)
- [Sub Regulatory Guidance for State Medicaid Agencies \(SMA\): Revalidation \(2016-001\)](#)
- [Sub Regulatory Guidance for State Medicaid Agencies \(SMA\): Fingerprint-based Criminal Background Checks \(FCBC\) \(2016-002\)](#)
- Section 6401 under [Title VI Transparency and Program Integrity](#)
- Final Rule [42 CFR Part 1007 "Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Programs; Additional Screening Requirements, Application Fees, Temporary Enrollment Moratoria, Payment Suspensions and Compliance Plans for Providers and Suppliers" - 2/2/11](#)
- [CMS sub regulatory guidance on overpayments under 42 CFR 455.450\(e\)](#)
- [State Medicaid Director Letter SMD#15-002 - 6/1/15](#)
- [Application Fee Matrix](#) (correct for Medicare & Medicaid)
- Historical Documents
  - [Medicaid Provider Enrollment Compendium \(MPEC\) effective 1/4/2017 – 6/23/2017](#)
  - [Medicaid Provider Enrollment Compendium \(MPEC\) effective 3/22/2016 – 1/3/2017](#)

**Provider Participation:** Terminating the participation of individuals or entities under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program if they have been terminated under Medicare or any other Medicaid state plan.

- Section 6501 under [Title VI Transparency and Program Integrity](#)
- Final Rule [42 CFR Part 1007 "Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Programs; Additional Screening Requirements, Application Fees, Temporary Enrollment Moratoria, Payment Suspensions and Compliance Plans for Providers and Suppliers" - 2/2/11](#)
- [CMCS Informational Bulletin - 5/31/11](#)

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**Screenshot 3.2:** The [June 4, 2018](https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/index.html) version of the “Program Integrity” page at the URL <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/index.html>, captured by the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

The screenshot shows the Internet Archive Wayback Machine interface at the top, with the URL <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/index.html> and a date selector for June 4, 2018. Below the Wayback Machine header is the Medicaid.gov logo and navigation menu. The main content area features the title "Program Integrity" and a paragraph stating that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to combating Medicaid provider fraud, waste, and abuse. A bulleted list follows, detailing CMS responsibilities: hiring contractors for audits, providing support to states, and recovering improper payments. Below the list are links to "Comprehensive Medicaid Integrity Plan (CMIP)", "Report to Congress", "Provider Audits", "National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) in Medicaid", and "Medicaid Guidance Fraud Prevention".

**Program Integrity**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to combating Medicaid provider fraud, waste, and abuse which diverts dollars that could otherwise be spent to safeguard the health and welfare of Medicaid enrollees.

CMS has broad responsibilities under the Medicaid Integrity Program to:

- Hire contractors to review Medicaid provider activities, audit claims, identify overpayments, and educate providers and others on Medicaid program integrity issues
- Provide effective support and assistance to states in their efforts to combat Medicaid provider fraud and abuse
- Eliminate and recover improper payments in accordance with the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002, Executive Order 13520 and the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010

For additional general information you can also use the following links to directly access information about the topics listed below.

**Comprehensive Medicaid Integrity Plan (CMIP)**

The CMIP is developed in consultation with key stakeholders and details the Medicaid Integrity Program’s 5-year comprehensive strategy for combating fraud, waste, and abuse.

[COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAID INTEGRITY PLAN \(CMIP\)](#)

**Report to Congress**

An annual report to Congress on the use and effectiveness of the funds appropriated for the Medicaid Integrity Program.

[REPORT TO CONGRESS](#)

**Provider Audits**

Section 1936 of the Social Security Act obligates the CMS to procure contractors to audit Medicaid claims and identify overpayments. To fulfill this statutory requirement, the Medicaid Integrity Program (MIP) has procured Audit Medicaid Integrity Contractors (Audit MICs) to conduct provider audits throughout the country.

[PROVIDER AUDITS](#)

**National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) in Medicaid**

The CMS NCCI promotes national correct coding methodologies and reduces improper coding which may result in inappropriate payments of Medicare Part B claims and Medicaid claims.

[NATIONAL CORRECT CODING INITIATIVE \(NCCI\) IN MEDICAID](#)

**Medicaid Guidance Fraud Prevention**

Best practices and performance standards for states to use in their fraud prevention efforts.

[MEDICAID GUIDANCE FRAUD PREVENTION](#)

**Screenshot 3.3:** A side-by-side comparison of the removed “Program Integrity” page from May 13, 2018 and the currently live “Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions” page from June 16, 2018. The removed page began redirecting to the “Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions” page between June 2, 2018 and June 9, 2018. See a version of the removed page from [May 28, 2018](#), and the current version of the live “Affordable Care Act Program Integrity Provisions” page from [June 25, 2018](#), captured by the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

May 13, 2018

June 16, 2018

