



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE

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TENNCARE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS BEHIND IN PREMIUMS

PAYMENT PLAN NEEDED TO KEEP TENNCARE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—TennCare is notifying members who are behind in their premium payments that they are losing their TennCare health insurance coverage. The state is sending letters to people who are behind in their premiums, explaining they have 32 days to appeal and set up a payment plan to avoid losing TennCare.

People who are Medicaid eligible do not pay premiums, but all others on TennCare whose income is above the federal poverty level are required to pay monthly premiums. 100 Percent of poverty is equal to a family of four living on about \$16,500 a year.

This step is part of the bureau's effort to resume reverification of people who are on TennCare because they were uninsured or uninsurable, which is about 670,000 of TennCare's members. TennCare estimates that about 27,000 of these members are significantly behind in premium payments. Letters to these members were mailed this week.

"People who are not living in poverty are required to share the cost of TennCare coverage in order to participate in TennCare, and they must uphold their part of the agreement," said TennCare Director Mark Reynolds. "At the same time, we recognize the need to help members avoid financial hardships and will allow members to gradually pay off their overdue premiums, if necessary."

Members who are behind on premiums but who cannot pay off their obligation immediately can arrange a plan to pay the balance over a ten-month period, while continuing to make regular premium payments. Members who fell behind on their payments but have not received premium notices from TennCare may need to update their address with TennCare by calling member services at 1-800-669-1851. Change of address forms are also available on the TennCare web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/tenncare/adrescge.htm>. All members are required to keep TennCare updated on their latest address.

TennCare is asking people who assist family members and others to make sure that people they care for respond to any mail from TennCare about their premiums.

TennCare is the state's managed care health insurance program for people who are eligible for Medicaid, uninsured or uninsurable.

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