## **NEWS RELEASE**

Ilene Shapiro—Summit County Executive FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Date: March 29, 2023

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## Summit County Job and Family Services offers Medicaid Unwinding FAQs to residents

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) is encouraging residents who are current Medicaid clients to visit <u>https://co.summitoh.net/MedicaidUnwinding</u> to learn more about Medicaid unwinding, a state mandated process to determine program eligibility, set to begin in April and continue for the next 12 months. Since 2020, states have not been required to conduct eligibility determinations for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known in Ohio as the Healthy Start Program, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the next year, clients of these programs will be contacted by JFS to determine their continued eligibility for the program.

"It is important for residents to know the Medicaid unwinding process will begin next month, but it will continue throughout the next year and some clients may be contacted sooner than others. Our team has created an FAQ document to help residents understand this process, how it will affect them and what they can do to prepare," said County Executive Shapiro. "A simple, but critical step each client should take is to ensure their contact information is up to date with JFS."

The County is offering an <u>FAQs document</u> that contains information clients will need to ensure they can easily navigate the unwinding process. It contains information for individuals and families who may no longer be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, including how to apply for an Affordable Care Act plan on the <u>Health Insurance Marketplace</u>. It also warns clients of Medicaid unwinding scams and how to report scams if they are contacted by a suspicious actor. The FAQ is available in English, Spanish, Nepali, Burmese, Karen and Arabic.

County Executive Shapiro also reminds residents JFS case managers will be onsite at various Akron-Summit County Library locations throughout March, April and May. Case managers can help residents apply for new benefits and ensure existing clients are receiving all the benefits they are eligible to receive. More information about this program is available at <u>https://co.summitoh.net/JFSOnsiteCaseManagers</u>.