

# New Medicaid Work & Community Engagement Rules Coming in 2027

**Get Ready:** If you or someone you know is covered by Medicaid, it is important to know about some program changes coming soon.

## What is changing?

Starting January 1, 2027, people who are on Medicaid may have to prove they are working or doing other “community engagement” activities in order to keep their Medicaid coverage. This is a new reporting requirement, and it is sometimes called a “work requirement” even though not everyone will have to prove they are working.

If the new rules apply to you, you may notice changes to Medicaid applications and renewal forms, including new questions about work, income, caregiving responsibilities, or health conditions. You may receive more mail, emails, or online notices from Medicaid, and you may have short timelines to respond. **Keeping your contact information up to date and responding on time is very important to keeping your coverage.**

## Who is impacted by the new rules?

Certain people between the ages of 19 and 65 applying for or covered by Medicaid may be asked to **report on their work or community engagement activities to get or keep their Medicaid coverage.** However, several groups of people in this age group are exempt from the requirements (see below for more information about exemptions).

## What information will I have to report?

If these new requirements apply to you, you may need to show that you are participating in at least 80 hours per month of certain activities. Working is one way to satisfy the new requirements, but it is not the only way.



### Approved activities include:

- Working (full-time or part-time)
- Volunteering or doing community service
- Enrolled in school (full-time or part-time)
- Job training
- Earning at least \$580 in income each month

## Will I need to report my work & community engagement activities?

Many people will not have to meet these new work and community engagement requirements. These individuals are considered “exempt,” which means they do not have to report work or community activities because they have a serious health condition, care for others, or face special life situations.

**You might not have to report work or community engagement activity if you:**

- Are under the age of 19 or over the age of 65
- Are blind or have a disability
- Are pregnant or were recently pregnant
- Are a parent, guardian, or caregiver of a child age 13 or younger
- Care for someone with a disability
- Are participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program
- Were in jail or prison within the past three months
- Have certain medical conditions (see more on the next page)

**This is not an exhaustive list. Ask your doctor, clinic, or community provider for additional reasons you could be exempt.**

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## Which medical conditions may qualify for an exemption?

People with certain medical conditions or illnesses that impact their ability to meet the new work and community engagement requirements may be exempt. Medicaid sometimes refers to these enrollees as being “medically frail.”

**Keep an eye out for more information from your state Medicaid program. Your doctor, Medicaid, or health plan can help you figure out if your medical condition falls into one of these categories.**

### Conditions that may qualify for an exemption include:

- **Substance use disorder**, such as uncontrolled use of drugs or alcohol
- **Disabling mental illness**
- **Physical, intellectual, or developmental disability** that significantly impacts your ability to function in daily life activities
- **Serious or complex medical condition**, such as an illness, injury, or physical or mental condition that significantly impairs your health or requires ongoing medical care to manage

## State Exemptions

Your state may also provide **additional temporary exemptions** from work and community engagement requirements. Let your doctor, clinic, or community provider know if you:

- Are receiving certain types of intensive medical care (e.g., staying in a hospital, nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or a psychiatric hospital)
- Travel outside your community for a long period of time to get medical care for yourself or a dependent
- Live in an area where an emergency or disaster declaration is in effect or where unemployment is especially high

Depending on your state, you may need to alert your Medicaid agency so they can exempt you from these new work requirements.

## What should you do now? Preparing now can help you keep your Medicaid.

- ✓ Update your contact information, such as your **mailing address, phone number, and email** with the state Medicaid agency and your health plan.
- ✓ **Open and read** all mail, emails, and online notices from Medicaid and your health plan.
- ✓ Stay connected to care if you have health conditions. **Regular doctor visits and documentation** of those visits may help you get an exemption.
- ✓ You may want to **schedule medical appointments and refill prescriptions before the end of 2026**, in case you lose your Medicaid when these new rules take effect.
- ✓ **Ask questions** if you are unsure whether the work requirements apply to you or to find out if you qualify for an exemption.

## Where to find more information

If you have questions about Medicaid work requirements or whether you qualify for an exemption, **help is available.**

You can **contact your state’s Medicaid agency**, or call the **member services number** on your health insurance card. You can also ask your **doctor, clinic, or community health center**, or reach out to a **local enrollment assister** who helps people apply for Medicaid.

Many states will publish more information closer to **January 1, 2027**, so watch for official notices from your state Medicaid agency.