

New Medicaid Rules are Coming

Your Medicaid coverage is not changing right now. New Medicaid rules will start at your next renewal in 2027. Here is what you need to know.

Beginning January 1, 2027, applicants may need to meet requirements one month before applying, for example, December 2026 for January 2027 coverage. Current Medicaid members will not be affected until their regularly scheduled renewal starting in March 2027. Beginning in January 2027, renewals for some members will also be scheduled more often – every six months rather than every 12 months.

To meet requirements, you will need to:

- Work
- Volunteer
- Go to school
- Or qualify for an exclusion or exception

You do not need to do anything now. If we need information from you, we will contact you.

Exclusions and Exceptions

The new rules may not apply to you if any of these are true:

- You are pregnant now or were pregnant within the last 12 months
- A parent, guardian, or family caregiver of a child age 13 and younger or someone of any age who is disabled.
- You have a physical, mental, or developmental disability that makes daily tasks hard
- You have a serious health problem and need regular care
- You have a substance use disorder and have been in recovery for less than five years
- You are in a drug or alcohol treatment program
- You have a serious mental health condition, like schizophrenia or major depression
- You are blind or disabled
- You are 19 to 25 and have aged out of foster care
- You are an American Indian or Alaska Native
- You are a veteran with a total, or 100%, disability rating from the VA
- You are in jail or prison when it's time to renew or were released in the last 90 days before your renewal



- You are a member of a household that gets SNAP (food assistance) and are not exempt from SNAP work requirement rules
- You get TANF/WVWORKS (cash assistance) and already meet their work requirement rules
- You qualify for Medicare Part A or are enrolled in Medicare Part B

How to Meet the New Rules

If none of the above situations above apply to you, you will need to meet the new Medicaid community engagement rules. **It is important to start planning now.**

If the new requirements apply to you and you don't meet them, your Medicaid coverage might end, or your application will be denied. You might be able to get health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace®, but you might not qualify for financial help to lower your monthly premium.

To meet the new rules, you must either qualify for an exclusion or exception or do one of these things:

Work, Volunteer, or Go to School

You must complete a total of 80 hours each month from one or a combination of these activities:

- Work (paid or unpaid) or self-employment
- Volunteer work or community service
- Certain job training or workforce programs
- School, career, or technical training
- In-kind work

OR

Have an income of at least \$580 each month. Seasonal workers must average \$580 each month over the last six months. This income may come from:

- Work or self-employment
- Social Security
- Unemployment benefits
- Rental property
- Other income sources

We will try to use the information we already have to see if you meet the rules or qualify for an exclusion or exception.

If we need more information, we will contact you. We will tell you what we need and how to send it. We may ask for:

- Pay stubs
- School transcripts
- Records of volunteer hours
- Records from work programs

You can also tell us if you have a reason for not meeting the rules that we do not already know about.

Please check your mail, email, and text messages often in case we contact you.

Reporting Changes

You must report changes that could affect your Medicaid eligibility. This includes changes to your:

- Income
- Address
- Work status
- Household size, such as marriage, divorce, pregnancy, or adoption

You can report changes online, in person, by phone, or by mail.

How to tell us about a change in your circumstances:

- Online: www.wvpath.wv.gov
- By phone: 1-877-716-1212
- By e-mail: osacsrc@wv.gov
- By mail: U.S. Postal Service: P.O. Box 1668, Charleston, WV 25326-1668
- In person: Find your local office at <https://dohs.wv.gov/field-offices>
- By fax: 304-558-1869

More Information

For more information, visit: bms.wv.gov/new-medicaid-rules-are-coming

You can also scan the QR code for more information.

