

MEDICAID COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RULES

JULY 2026



Hello,

In July 2025, the federal government passed a new law called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, also known as H.R. 1. This law changes some Medicaid rules. **You are getting this letter because these changes may affect you.**

What are the Community Engagement rules?

Because of this new law, some people with West Virginia Medicaid will have new rules to follow. These rules are called Community Engagement rules.

If you already have Medicaid, you may need to follow these rules when it's time to renew your coverage in 2027, starting in March. To keep your coverage, you will need to show at each renewal that you meet the rules or that you qualify for an exemption.

Who does NOT need to follow these rules?

You may not have to follow the new rules if any of these apply to you:

- You are pregnant now or were pregnant within the last 12 months
- You are a parent, guardian, or family caregiver for 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 who gets SNAP (food assistance) and are not exempt from SNAP work requirements
- 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

If none of these apply to you, you may need to do 80 hours of the following activities each month. You can combine activities to reach 80 hours.

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

OR

Have an income of at least \$580 each month. Seasonal workers must average \$580 each month over the last 6 months.

Who needs to follow these rules?

These rules may apply if you:

- Are age 19 to 64
- Have a low income
- Receive Medicaid through:
 - Aetna Better Health of West Virginia
 - The Health Plan of West Virginia
 - Highmark Health Options
 - Wellpoint (formerly UniCare)
- Are not on Medicare
- Are not pregnant

If this sounds like you, you may need to follow the rules.

You may also be affected if when you apply or are due for renewal, **you are turning 19** or a **parent or caregiver whose youngest child is turning 14**.

If you need to update your contact information:

Log in to your PATH account at wvpath.wv.gov or call your local DoHS county office. Find a map of county offices at dohs.wv.gov/field-offices.

We know this is a big change, and we are here to help. Please watch for a formal mailed notice in August with more details about these new rules and what they may mean for you.



To learn more, scan the code to the left to visit WVMedicaidHelp.org.



Escanee para ver esta información en español