August Notice: HR 1 Work Requirement (English)

Text Message:

This is a message from RI Medicaid. New federal rules start in 2027. Some adults will need to meet work requirements and renew Medicaid every 6 months. For more information, log in at healthyrhode.ri.gov or visit staycovered.ri.gov/work.

NOTICE AND EMAIL:

Important Information About Your Medicaid Coverage

A new federal law will change Medicaid rules for some Rhode Island adults starting in 2027. These changes include:

- Work Requirements
- Medicaid renewals every 6 months

Our records show that these changes may apply to you. This notice explains what is changing and what you may need to do.

What is changing?

Starting in 2027, federal law will require some adults to report their work or related activities to keep Medicaid. These rules are called "work requirements" but they include more than employment.

You can meet the work requirement by earning at least $580 in a month. For seasonal workers only, an average monthly income of at least $580 over the previous six months qualifies.

You can also meet the work requirement by completing 80 hours in a month of any combination of the following:

- Working a job
- Volunteering or doing community service at a public or nonprofit organization
- Participating in job training, a job skills program, or a workforce development program
- Attending school or a trade or vocational program at least part time

<u>If you do not meet the requirements or do not respond to future requests for information, your Medicaid coverage may end.</u>

Also in 2027, Medicaid will renew your coverage every six months instead of once a year.

Who does this impact?

These rules apply only to certain adults ages 19–64 who qualify for Medicaid based on income. Under federal law, an "applicable individual" is someone who must meet the work requirement unless they qualify for an exemption.

Work requirements <u>*do not*</u> apply to you if you:

- Are younger than 19 or older than 64;
- Are a parent or legal guardian of a child younger than 19 who lives in your household;
- Are a caregiver of a child younger than 14;
- Are

a caregiver of a person of any age with a disability;

- Have a physical, intellectual, development, or mental condition that makes it difficult to work, attend school or volunteer;
- Have a serious or complex medical condition that makes it difficult to work, attend school or volunteer;
- Are in a drug or alcohol treatment program;
- Are pregnant now or had a baby in the last year;
- Are Native American or Alaska Native;
- Were in jail or prison within the last three months;
- Were in foster care when you turned 18;
- Are a veteran with a total (100%) disability rating;
- Are receiving TANF and meeting TANF work requirements;
- Are receiving SNAP and meeting SNAP work requirements;
- Are enrolled in Medicare or getting SSI/SSDI or disability benefits.

You may also be eligible for a short-term hardship exemption if:

- You were recently or are currently admitted to a hospital or rehabilitation facility for inpatient care.
- You must travel outside your city/town for 10 days or more to get medical care for yourself or a dependent due to a serious or complex condition.

What will I need to do to renew my Medicaid?

- Starting in 2027, we will check your Medicaid eligibility every 6 months. At each renewal, we will look at the past 6 months to see if you:
- Met the work requirement for at least one month, or
- Qualified for an exemption for at least one month.

If we need more information, we will send you a notice explaining what to submit. If you are not exempt from work requirements, we will ask for details about your work hours, school attendance, volunteering, job training, or income. This notice does not mean you will lose coverage. It means we need to review your situation under the new rules.

What happens if I don't meet the new work requirements?

If you do not meet the work requirement and do not qualify for an exemption:

- Your Medicaid coverage may end.
- You may not be able to get help to pay for Marketplace coverage.
- You can reapply for Medicaid at any time, but you may have a gap in coverage.

What you need to do now

- You do not need to report on your work or related activities now. However, starting in 2027, we may ask you to send us information about your work, school, volunteering, or income. Keeping records or documents now (like pay stubs, school schedules, or volunteer hours) may make reporting easier if we ask for them later.
- Make sure your mailing address, phone number, and email are up to date so you don't miss important notices. Learn how at staycovered.ri.gov/update-account.
- Look up your next renewal date online at ri.gov/EOHHS/medicaid_renewal.

BE READY.
STAY COVERED.

What will happen next

If we need more information from you, we will send you a notice. It will include:

- A list of exemptions (things that mean you don't have to report your work activities).
- Instructions for how to show us that you have an exemption.
- More information about work requirements.
- How to report work, school, job training, volunteering, or income.
- Deadlines for sending information.

For more information, please visit staycovered.ri.gov/work.