



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health
DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
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[September, XX 2026]

IMPORTANT: UPCOMING MEDICAID CHANGES

NEED HELP WITH THIS LETTER?

Call 800-478-7778. Free interpreters are available. TDD/Alaska Relay: 7-1-1.

Dear [Name]:

Starting January 1, 2027, federal Medicaid rules will change for some adults. The changes affect how often some people have their Medicaid eligibility reviewed and include new work and community engagement rules.

1. Beginning January 1, 2027, many adults ages 19 to 64 in the Medicaid expansion group will have their eligibility reviewed every 6 months instead of every 12 months. Some people, including certain Alaska Native and American Indian individuals, will continue to have their eligibility reviewed every 12 months.
2. New work and community engagement rules will apply to some adults as a condition of Medicaid eligibility. **IMPORTANT:** Currently, the new work and community engagement rules are set to begin January 1, 2027. The State of Alaska has asked the federal government for more time to implement the new work and community engagement rules. If the request is approved, these rules will take effect later than January 1, 2027. If that happens, the Division will let you know the new date the rules will take effect.

Work and community engagement rules apply to some adults in the Medicaid expansion group and may apply to you if:

- You are age 19 through 64;
- You receive Medicaid through the Medicaid expansion group; and
- You do not qualify for an exclusion. A list of exclusions is provided later in this letter.

We are sending you this letter because you or someone in your household may be subject to these changes.

This letter does not mean you are losing Medicaid. Your coverage has not changed, and you do not need to take action today.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND DO

You do not need to reply to this letter. For now:

1. **Keep your contact information current.** Make sure we have your current mailing address, phone number, and other contact information so you do not miss an important Medicaid notice. You can update your contact information through the Alaska Connect portal <https://alaskaconnect.ilinx.com/engage/dpa/home>.
2. **Watch your mail.** You may get a Medicaid renewal form or letter asking for more information. If we ask you for information, respond by the date shown in the form or letter.

WILL I HAVE TO RENEW MEDICAID EVERY 6 MONTHS?

Starting January 1, 2027, some adults ages 19 to 64 in the Medicaid expansion group will have their Medicaid reviewed every 6 months. This means we will check every 6 months to see if you still qualify, instead of every 12 months.

Some people will continue to have their Medicaid reviewed every 12 months, including:

- Alaska Native and American Indian people; and
- People who are eligible for Medicaid based on reasons such as age, disability, or pregnancy.

In some households, one person may have their Medicaid reviewed every 6 months while another person may have their Medicaid reviewed every 12 months.

DO THE WORK AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RULES APPLY TO ME?

Work and community engagement rules apply to some adults ages 19 through 64 in the Medicaid expansion group.

Some people are excluded from the work and community engagement rules because of their age, health, family responsibilities, Tribal status, participation in another program, or another circumstance.

If you are Alaska Native or American Indian, you will not have to meet the work and community engagement requirements.

You may not need to meet the Medicaid work and community engagement rules if you:

- Are pregnant or were recently pregnant;
- Are a parent, guardian, or caregiver of a child under age 14 or of a person with a disability and meet certain other criteria;
- Have a serious physical health condition, mental health condition, substance use disorder, or disability that prevents you from working or participating in community engagement activities;
- Are receiving treatment for a drug or alcohol use disorder;
- Are already meeting certain SNAP or Temporary Assistance work requirements;
- Are a veteran with a total disability;
- Left foster care at age 18 and are under age 26; or
- Are currently incarcerated.

If any of these circumstances apply to you, you may not have to meet the new work and community engagement requirements. The Division may ask for information if needed to confirm that an exclusion applies.

OTHER EXCEPTIONS MAY ALSO APPLY

You also may not need to meet the work and community engagement rules if, for at least one month since your last Medicaid renewal, you:

- Were under age 19;
- Became eligible for or enrolled in Medicare;
- Were eligible under certain other Medicaid eligibility groups;
- Met at least one of the exclusions described above; or
- Were recently released from incarceration.

You may also be temporarily excepted from the rules because of a hardship. This may apply if:

- You receive care in a hospital, nursing facility, psychiatric hospital, or another similar medical setting;
- You must travel to get treatment for yourself or your dependent for a serious or complex medical condition;
- You live in, or are displaced from your permanent residence in, an area affected by a federally declared emergency or disaster; or
- You live in an area with high unemployment.

We will review your circumstances before deciding whether the rules apply to you.

HOW CAN I MEET WORK AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RULES?

If you do not qualify for an exclusion or other exception, you may need to meet the work and community engagement rules to keep your Medicaid.

You can meet the rules through activities such as working, going to school, participating in a work program, volunteering, or a combination of activities.

For more information about how to meet these requirements, visit: [StayCovered.alaska.gov](https://staycovered.alaska.gov).

WHEN DO I NEED TO SHOW I'M MEETING THE RULES?

If you are applying for Medicaid and are not excluded, you generally must meet the rules during the month before you apply.

If you already receive Medicaid and are not excluded, you generally must meet the rules for at least 1 month between Medicaid eligibility reviews.

HOW WILL THE STATE CHECK IF I MEET THE RULES?

When it is time to review your Medicaid eligibility, we will first check records the State already has to determine whether:

- You do not have to meet the work and community engagement rules; or
- You already meet the work and community engagement rules.

If we cannot confirm either of these using available records, we will send you a letter asking for more information. The letter will tell you what information we need and when it is due.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T MEET THE WORK AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RULES?

If we cannot confirm that you meet the rules or that the rules do not apply to you, we may deny your Medicaid application or renewal.

If your Medicaid is denied because you did not meet the work and community engagement rules, federal law may also prevent you from receiving financial help to buy health coverage through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace.

WHAT IF MY CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE?

Tell the Division of Public Assistance if something changes that may affect your Medicaid eligibility. This could include changes to your household, health, or work and community engagement activities.

You can report a change or send information in any of these ways:

- **Upload:** Go to Alaska Connect (<https://alaskaconnect.ilinx.com/engage/dpa>), sign in through myAlaska, and choose **Upload Documents**.
- **Mail:** Mail copies of your documents to the address shown in your notice.
- **Call:** 1-800-478-7778.

- **Fax:** 1-888-269-6520.
- **Meet in person:** Bring copies of your documents to any Division of Public Assistance office. Find offices at <https://health.alaska.gov/en/division-of-public-assistance/>.

Keep your contact information current so you do not miss an important Medicaid notice.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO TAKE ACTION TODAY. We will continue to provide information as implementation moves forward and will let you know if you need to take action.

We know you may have questions about these Medicaid changes. Call the Division of Public Assistance at 1-800-478-7778 if you need help understanding this letter or what the changes may mean for you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Deb Etheridge

Deb Etheridge

Director

Division of Public

Assistance Alaska

Department of Health