Iowa Health and Wellness Plan Eligibility Changes
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is changing?

A: Medicaid eligibility rules for the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan, a Medicaid health insurance program, are changing. Some adults may need to meet a new monthly work requirement to qualify for Medicaid or keep their coverage.

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) oversees the program and will determine who must meet the new requirements.

Q: What's the new work requirement?

A: If the requirement applies to you, you must spend **at least 80 hours each month** doing one or more of these activities:

- Working or earning at least $580 per month.
- Volunteering or doing community service work.
- Taking part in an approved job training program.
- Attending school, such as college, a technical program or a General Educational Development (GED) program.

If you attend school at least half-time (as defined by your school), you likely meet the new requirement. If you attend less than half-time, your school hours may count toward the 80 hours.

You can combine different activities to reach 80 hours each month.

Q: Who may need to meet the new requirement?

A: The new work requirement **may** apply to you if all of these are true:

- You are between 19 and 64 years old.
- Your household income is at or below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (about $22,025 per year for one person or $29,863 per year for two people).
- You do not qualify for any of the exceptions listed below.

If you are unsure whether the new requirement applies to you, contact Iowa Health & Human Services.

Q: Who may not have to meet the new requirement?

A: You **may not** have to meet the new work requirement if any of these apply to you:

- You are younger than 19 or age 65 or older.
- You are pregnant or have given birth in the last 12 months.
- You are a parent, guardian, caretaker or family caregiver for a child younger than 14 or a person with a disability.
- You were released from a correctional facility (such as jail or prison) within the last three months.
- You are a veteran with a total disability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- You are a member of an American Indian or Urban Indian Tribe, including federally recognized Tribes and Urban Indian communities.
- You are currently or were previously in foster care and are younger than 26.
- You already meet SNAP (food assistance) or TANF (temporary cash assistance for families) work requirements.
- You have a health condition that makes daily activities, such as dressing or moving around, difficult.
- You are blind or have a physical, intellectual, or developmental disability.

- You have a substance use disorder (drug or alcohol addiction) or serious mental health condition.
- You are in a substance use treatment or recovery program.
- You have qualified or currently qualify for Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) or Part B (medical insurance).

Iowa HHS can help you determine if you qualify for an exception.

Q: What should I do now?

A: Here are five steps you can take to prepare:

1. **Update your contact information.** Make sure Iowa HHS has your current address, phone number and email address so you can receive information about these changes.
2. **Check your mail and email.** Iowa HHS will send you a letter or email in the coming months if the new requirements apply to you.
3. **Track your activities.** Keep a record of the hours you work, volunteer, attend job training or go to school each month. This may help you show that you meet the new requirement when it's time to renew your coverage.
4. **Contact Iowa HHS.** Ask if the new requirement applies to you and whether you need to provide any information to keep your coverage.
5. **Gather important documents.** Keep any medical or legal records that may help show you qualify for an exception.

Q: What happens if I don't meet the new work requirement?

A: If the new requirement applies to you and you do not meet it, the state may end your Medicaid coverage or deny your application.

If this happens:

- **You can apply for Medicaid again at any time.** Visit medicaid.gov/about-us/where-can-people-get-help-medicaid-chip for more information.
- You may qualify for other health insurance. Visit healthcare.gov to explore your options. You may not qualify for financial help to lower your monthly cost. You can also call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325).

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: For questions about these changes or your Medicaid coverage, contact the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS).

Phone: 1-877-347-5678
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Website: **Iowa HHS: Iowa Health and Wellness Plan Requirements**

These are government changes to Medicaid eligibility rules, not changes made by your healthcare provider. Iowa HHS can answer questions about how the new requirements may affect your coverage.