Washington State Health Care Authority

Work requirements and renewal changes coming to Apple Health for Adults

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) individuals are excluded from both work requirements and the shortened 6-month certification periods.

House Resolution One (H.R. 1) will bring many changes to Apple Health (Medicaid) eligibility.

Beginning January 1, 2027, most individuals applying for or renewing Apple Health for Adults will:

- Need to meet new federal Medicaid work requirements or meet the criteria for an exemption.
- Require 6-month certification periods (previously one year).

Apple Health for Adults

Starting January 1, 2027, adults who qualify for Apple Health for Adults must meet work requirements (also called community engagement) unless they meet an exemption.

To be eligible for Apple Health for Adults per WAC 182-505-0250, you must meet the following:

- **Age:** 19-64 without Medicare.
- **Washington state resident.**
- **Income limit:** Under 138% federal poverty level (FPL).
- **Citizenship and immigration requirements:** Must meet requirements per WAC 182-503-0535.

Changes to citizenship and immigration requirements begin October 2026. See the Changes coming to Apple Health webpage for more information.

Work requirements only apply to Apple Health for Adults as defined above. They do not apply to any other Apple Health program, including children, pregnancy services, or long term care services.

Exemptions

Certain individuals eligible for Apple Health for Adults do not need to meet work requirements if they are:

- Pregnant or in 12-month postpartum period
- Under age 19
- Foster youth or former foster youth under age 26
- American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) and certain Tribal populations
- Parent, caretaker, or guardian of a child under age 14
- Household member of SNAP (food assistance) or TANF (cash assistance)
- Parent, caretaker, or guardian of an individual with a disability
- Entitled to Medicare Part A or B
- Incarcerated or within 90 days post-release period
- Medically frail
- Alcohol or substance use disorder treatment (AUD/SUD)
- Disabled veteran with 100% total disability
- In short-term hardship

Criteria for work requirements

Work requirements or an exemption must be met in the month before applying, or in any of the six months before renewing coverage. Work requirements are met when an individual:

- Has at least $580 in monthly household income (or average $580 over a 6-month period for seasonal workers).
- Enrolls in an educational program at least half-time.
- Participates in a work program at least 80 hours per month.
- Completes at least 80 hours of community service per month.
- Has a combination of hours of work, community service, work program, or educational program totaling at least 80 hours per month.

Coverage period changes

Apple Health for Adults coverage periods will change from 12 months to 6 months beginning January 1, 2027. The change will occur at a person's first renewal in 2027.

- The renewal process is not changing. The system will continue to attempt an automatic renewal before sending a notice for the individual to take action to keep their coverage.
- **Example:** A person applies through Washington Healthplanfinder and is approved for Apple Health for Adults on February 1, 2027. Their certification period will end on July 31, 2027 (6 months) instead of January 31, 2028 (12 months).

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Resources

- Apple Health for Adults webpage
- Apply for coverage
- Changes coming to Apple Health webpage
- How to update your information

Questions?

Email: HCA Apple Health Eligibility Policy