

# Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) January 15, 2026

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# Welcome

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- Open Meetings Act
- Roll Call
- Conflict of Interest Form

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# Follow-ups from last meeting

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- Review and approve November 20, 2025, meeting minutes
  - <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/DRAFT%20MAC%20Meeting%20Minutes%2011.20.25.pdf>

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# MLTC Announcements

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- Federal Mileage Reimbursement Rate – 72.5 cents per mile
- Annual Report
  - Introduction
  - Background
  - Implementation
  - Committee information
  - Meeting recaps
  - Conclusion and next steps
- Bylaw Updates

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# Bylaw Updates

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- Article IV. Committee Structure Section 2 (a)
  - Added “at least” and removed the number 4
- Article VII. Meetings Section 2
  - Removed the 30 days in advance requirement for materials. MLTC will aim to provide relevant materials to the MAC 14 days before the meeting
- Article VIII. Reports and Recommendations Section 2
  - Added a paragraph about the annual report

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# MAC Announcements

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- At this time, MAC members may share updates and announcements

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# Leadership Election

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- As per the MAC Bylaws, Vice-Chair Jennifer will be our next MAC Chair
- Vote on new Vice-Chair
  - We had 2 applicants for the vice-chair – Elizabeth and Jenelle
  - Does anyone wish to nominate themselves at this time?
  - Each applicant can give a quick speech about why they wanted to run and why they would be a good fit
  - We will vote by secret ballot

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# Beneficiary Advisory Committee (BAC) Update

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- Voted to approve bylaws
- Reviewed and provided feedback on a Medicaid Work Requirement document

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# Federal Legislative Update

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- Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program
  - Webpage: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Rural-Health-Transformation.aspx>
- Medicaid Work Requirements (MWR)
  - Webpage: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/WorkRequirements.aspx>

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# Rural Health Transformation Program

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- ▶ **Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP):** a program enacted by H.R.1 which allows for the allocation of funding to support the provision of health care in rural areas
- ▶ Nebraska DHHS submitted our application for the RHTP in November 2025.
- ▶ The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced the award amount granted to each state.
- ▶ Nebraska awarded over \$218 million for rural healthcare – 8<sup>th</sup> highest award in the country

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# Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

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▶ With the awarded money, Nebraska will implement seven integrated initiatives to, strengthen rural health infrastructure, address workforce gaps, and ensure access to care through consumer-facing technology:

1. Make Rural Nebraska Healthy Again through Food as Medicine
2. Regionalized Rural Access and Navigation
3. Rural Workforce Acceleration
4. eHealth and Mobile
5. Rural Emergency Behavioral Health
6. Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Special Needs Population Incentive Model
7. Nebraska Rural Health Technology Catalyst Fund and Partnership Initiative

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# Medicaid Work Requirements

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# Introduction to Work Requirements

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- ▶ H.R. 1 (the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) was passed into federal law on July 4, 2025, and made many changes to the Medicaid program.
- ▶ Starting May 1, 2026, Nebraska Medicaid will begin enforcing work requirements for Medicaid members under Medicaid expansion.
  - ▶ This includes new applicants and existing members.
  - ▶ Some Medicaid expansion members may be exempt from having to complete work requirements.
- ▶ Work requirement activities include:
  - ▶ Working
  - ▶ Attending school or an apprenticeship
  - ▶ Participating in a work program
  - ▶ Volunteering

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# What is Medicaid Expansion?

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- ▶ Medicaid expansion members are sometimes referred to as Heritage Health adults.
- ▶ Medicaid expansion members include people who:
  - ▶ Are aged 19-64;
  - ▶ Have a low income;
  - ▶ Are U.S. citizens or meet Medicaid immigration rules; **and**
  - ▶ Get their health insurance through Nebraska Medicaid.
- ▶ In Medicaid, low income is defined as up to 138% of the federal poverty level.
- ▶ Medicaid expansion members cannot be:
  - ▶ On Medicare
  - ▶ Pregnant
  - ▶ Eligible for Medicaid based on a disability

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# Work Requirements Hours

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- ▶ Heritage Health adults must spend at least 80 hours\* in at least one qualifying month doing one of these activities.
  - ▶ \*or attending school or an apprenticeship at least half time
- ▶ Members and applicants can combine any of these activities to get to 80 hours during a qualifying month.
  - ▶ Example: 40 hours volunteering and 40 hours participating in an approved work program
- ▶ Individuals can also meet work requirements if they are working and earn the federal minimum threshold in a qualifying month.
  - ▶ Equivalent of 80 hours worked at the current federal minimum wage
  - ▶ As of December 2025, about \$580/month

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# Reporting Work Requirement Information

- ▶ The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will examine Medicaid members' case information to determine if they have met work requirements in a qualifying month or if they qualify for an exemption.
- ▶ If DHHS does not have enough information to verify work requirements or an exemption, we will contact the individual and ask for more information.
- ▶ If DHHS requests additional information, individuals must submit the requested information within 30 days of receipt, or they may lose their Medicaid coverage.
- ▶ Medicaid members and applicants should check their mail or email regularly in case DHHS requests more information from them. DHHS will also text individuals that indicate a text preference.

# Exemptions

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- Some Nebraska Medicaid expansion adults may not need to complete work requirements if they meet one of the following exemptions:
  - People under age 26 who aged out of foster care
  - People who are members of recognized Native American tribes
  - Parents, caretakers, or guardians of children up to age 13 or of an individual with disabilities
  - Veterans with a total disability rating
  - People who are medically frail or have special medical needs, including:
    - Blindness or disability
    - Substance use disorder
    - Disabling mental disorder
    - Or other significant physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities
  - People compliant with work requirements under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - People who are participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment program
  - People who are incarcerated or have been incarcerated within the last 90 days
  - Women who are pregnant or up to 12 months after the end of pregnancy
- Other mandatory exceptions may apply.

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# Temporary Hardships

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Some people enrolled in Nebraska Medicaid through Medicaid expansion also may not need to complete work requirements if they have one of the following temporary hardship reasons:

- ▶ People who were hospitalized or lived in a nursing home since their last coverage renewal.
- ▶ People or a dependent who had to travel outside their community to receive care to treat a serious health condition since their last coverage renewal.
- ▶ People who lived in a county that was under an emergency declaration or in a county with a high unemployment rate since their last coverage renewal.

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# Notifying Members and Applicants

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- ▶ Nebraska Medicaid sent a notice by mail to everyone enrolled in Nebraska Medicaid through Medicaid expansion.
  - ▶ (nearly 70,000 individuals and their authorized representatives)
- ▶ Nebraska Medicaid also sent follow up texts and emails to individuals that identified an electronic notice preference.
- ▶ Nebraska Medicaid will continue to send notices to anyone that becomes newly eligible in the Medicaid expansion group through April 2026.

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# Notifying Members and Applicants Cont.

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- ▶ Beginning in April 2026: for members that have their next regularly scheduled renewal due in May 2026 →
  - ▶ Nebraska Medicaid will send notices to members if they need to provide more information to verify their participation in work requirements or confirm their exemption.
- ▶ Beginning in May 2026: for individuals newly applying for Medicaid that are eligible in the Medicaid expansion group →
  - ▶ Nebraska Medicaid will send notices if applicants need to provide more information to verify their participation in work requirements or confirm their exemption.

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# Work Requirements Resources

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- For more information:
  - Medicaid Work Requirements webpage: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/WorkRequirements.aspx>
  - Medicaid Work Requirements FAQ:
    - English: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/MLTC-WR-Requirements-FAQ.pdf>
    - Spanish: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/MLTC-WR-Requirements-FAQ-Spanish.pdf>
  - Medicaid Work Requirements Outreach Notice:
    - English: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/MLTC-WR-Outreach-Notice.pdf>
    - Spanish: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/MLTC-WR-Requirements-FAQ-Spanish.pdf>
- For job-seeking assistance:
  - Visit the Nebraska Department of Labor's online resources: <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx>

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# Questions?

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# Open Discussion / Public Comment

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# Next Meeting

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- March 19, 2026, from 3 to 5 p.m. – Lincoln, NE
- Hybrid meeting – in person and virtual options for members and the public

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For information on the Nebraska Medicaid Advisory Committee, email  
[DHHS.MACandBAC@Nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.MACandBAC@Nebraska.gov)

or visit <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Beneficiary-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

For general Medicaid inquiries, email  
[DHHS.MedicaidCommunications@Nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.MedicaidCommunications@Nebraska.gov)

or visit <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-and-Long-Term-Care.aspx>



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