

Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC)

March 19, 2026

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Welcome

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

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Follow-ups from last meeting

- Review and approve January 15, 2026, meeting minutes
 - <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/DRAFT%20MAC%20Meeting%20Minutes%201.15.26.pdf>

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MLTC Announcements

- Vice-Chair – Jenelle Miller
- Hotel Prior Authorization
 - Must submit the prior authorization form 30 days before the meeting to be considered
- Annual Report
 - Any feedback?
- Communication/Contact Resource
- HCBS Program Flowchart:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/DD%20Documents/HCBS%20Flow%20Chart.pdf>

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MLTC Announcements Continued

- Nebraska Sustainable Coverage Waiver Public Comment ends March 26:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Sustainable-Coverage-Demonstration-Waiver.aspx>
- New BAC Rep will start in July along with 4 new members
- Member Term Review
 - June 2026: Vietta, Jason, Staci, Kelly
 - June 2027: Phill, Jennifer, Dave
 - January 2028: Frank
 - June 2028: Elizabeth, Brandi, Jenelle
 - June 2029: Kevin

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MAC Announcements

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

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Beneficiary Advisory Committee (BAC) Update

- Waiver discussion
- Looked at Medicaid Work Requirements Application Pages

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Legislative Update

- Handout with bills that impact Medicaid
- <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/>

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Medicaid Work Requirements Update

Note: The information contained in this document is based on guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other federal entities. The information in this document is subject to change based on updated guidance from CMS, changes to law or regulation, or other circumstances.

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Medicaid Work Requirements Update

- ▶ Starting May 1, 2026, Nebraska Medicaid will begin enforcing work requirements for Medicaid members under Medicaid expansion.
 - ▶ Individuals applying on/after May 1 that are determined eligible in the Medicaid expansion group will be subject to work requirements.
 - ▶ Existing Medicaid expansion members that have renewals initiated on/after May 1 will be subject to work requirements.
 - ▶ Members whose eligibility period ends July 31, 2026, will be the first group of Medicaid expansion members subject to work requirements.

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Work Requirements Overview

- ▶ Work requirement activities can include:
 - ▶ Working
 - ▶ Attending school or an apprenticeship
 - ▶ Participating in a work program
 - ▶ Community service / volunteering
- ▶ Expansion members must spend at least 80 hours* in at least one qualifying month doing one of these activities. Members and applicants can combine any of these activities to get to 80 hours during a qualifying month.
 - ▶ *or attending school or an apprenticeship at least half time
- ▶ Individuals can also meet work requirements if they are working and earn the \$580 in a qualifying month. (Equivalent of 80 hours worked at the current federal minimum wage)
- ▶ Some people may be exempt, including temporary exemptions for hardships.

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Exemptions

- Under age 26 and aged out of foster care
- A member of a federally recognized Native American tribe, an Urban Indian, a California Indian, or if you receive services through the Indian Health Service (IHS)
- A parent or caretaker of a child age 13 or younger
- Caring for a person with a disability
- A veteran with a total disability rating
- Medically frail
 - Blindness or disability
 - Substance use disorder
 - A disabling mental health condition
 - A serious and complex medical condition
- A serious physical, intellectual, or developmental disability
- In a household that gets supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits and are compliant under certain conditions with work requirements
- In a qualified drug or alcohol treatment program
- Incarcerated or recently released (within 90 days of a qualifying month)
- Pregnant or had Medicaid while pregnant and are up to 12 months postpartum

Qualifying Month & Lookback Period – New Applicants

- ▶ For people **newly applying** for Nebraska Medicaid, the qualifying month is:
 - ▶ the month before the month they apply for qualifying activities and temporary hardships (e.g. an individual applying on May 1, 2026, would need to have a qualifying activity or hardship in April 2026); OR
 - ▶ either the month before the month they apply or the application month for exemptions (e.g. an individual applying on May 1, 2026, would need to have an exemption in May or April 2026)
- ▶ One month lookback for qualifying activities and temporary hardships and either one month lookback or application month for exemptions

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Qualifying Month & Lookback Period - Renewals

- ▶ For **people already enrolled** in Nebraska Medicaid through Medicaid expansion, a qualifying month is any month between their most recent Medicaid determination or renewal and their next regularly scheduled Medicaid renewal (e.g. a member whose annual eligibility period ends July 31, 2026, would need to have a qualifying activity, exemption, or temporary hardship between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2026).
 - ▶ 12-month lookback from end of eligibility period
 - ▶ Starting in 2027 Medicaid expansion members will be required to complete semi-annual renewals and the lookback will change to 6 months

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Medicaid Work Requirement Projections

- ▶ DHHS completed an analysis of the 70K expansion member population to project the number of members with and without information related to qualifying activity and exemptions already available to Nebraska Medicaid.
 - ▶ DHHS used July 2025 enrollment as a snapshot to create the projections.
 - ▶ DHHS identified qualifying activities and exemptions for 60% to 72% of the expansion population (45K to 54K).
- ▶ Applying these projections, DHHS estimates that Nebraska Medicaid would request 28% to 40% (20K to 28K) of expansion members to provide information demonstrating qualifying activities or exemptions as part of the Medicaid renewal process.
- ▶ Nebraska Medicaid completes an average of 5,800 renewals each month

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Member Outreach & Resources

- ▶ In December 2025 Nebraska Medicaid sent a notice by mail to everyone enrolled in Nebraska Medicaid through Medicaid expansion.
- ▶ 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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Member Outreach & Resources Cont.

- ▶ FAQs and Website were updated March 17 with additional information and resources.
- ▶ DHHS and Nebraska Medicaid will be incorporating referrals to job assistance and training, education, and community service resources for Medicaid expansion members.
- ▶ Nebraska Medicaid will be publishing educational & “How To” videos.
- ▶ In April DHHS will begin running public service announcements (PSAs), and in May will begin a Social Media campaign.

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Medicaid Application and Renewal Updates

- ▶ Nebraska Medicaid is updating the Medicaid application and renewal forms (online and paper) to include new (optional) screening questions to allow individuals to provide information that will help verify work requirement qualifying activities, exemptions, and temporary hardships for those individuals determined eligible under Medicaid expansion.

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Screening Questions – SAMPLE Review

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Reporting Work Requirement Information

- ▶ Nebraska Medicaid will examine Medicaid members' case information to determine if they have a qualifying activity or if they qualify for an exemption or temporary hardship in a qualifying month – this process is known as ex parte review.
- ▶ If we do not have enough information to verify work requirements or an exemption, we will contact the individual and ask for more information.
- ▶ If we request additional information, individuals must submit the requested information within **30 days** of receipt, or they may be denied or lose their Medicaid coverage.

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Verification of Compliance Notice – SAMPLE Review

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Documentation (Reporting) Requirements

- ▶ If Medicaid cannot verify work requirement compliance using available information, individuals are required to provide information.
 - ▶ Information can be provided online (iServe), mail, and phone.
 - ▶ **Reporting requirements will change in future years based on federal law, regulations, or CMS guidance.**
- ▶ Medicaid agencies are required to **verify** information for work and education qualifying activities.
 - ▶ Individuals must provide **primary source documents** that contain required information (e.g. number of hours worked, school transcripts or class schedules)

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Documentation (Reporting) Requirements cont.

- ▶ Medicaid agencies are required to collect **individual declarations** for specific qualifying activities, exemptions, and temporary hardships.
 - Participating in a work program and volunteering
 - Some exemptions
 - Temporary Hardships; hospitalized or lived in a nursing home, travel outside their community to receive care to treat a serious health condition
- ▶ Individuals will need to complete an individual declaration form with identifying information (e.g. organization name, address, contact information, relationship information, medical provider information).
- ▶ For most declarations, individuals are not required to provide supporting documentation (e.g. health records)
- ▶ As with a Medicaid application or renewal, members and applicants are providing information under penalty of perjury.

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Individual Declaration Form – SAMPLE Review

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Work Requirements Resources

- ▶ 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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Thank You!

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Open Discussion / Public Comment

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Next Meeting

- May 21, 2026, from 3 to 5 p.m. – Omaha, NE
- In-person meeting –virtual option for the public

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For information on the Nebraska Medicaid Advisory Committee, email
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

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



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