



Medicaid Work Requirements (MWR)

Effective May 1, 2026, Nebraska Medicaid will begin enforcing work requirements as a condition of eligibility for new applicants and existing Medicaid beneficiaries under Medicaid expansion. Because of this change, hospital-based Presumptive Eligibility (PE) providers will need to assess PE applicants for work requirement compliance. This change only impacts applicants found to be in the Medicaid expansion eligibility category by a hospital-based PE provider. Applicants found to be in other eligibility categories by a hospital-based PE provider and those found eligible by pregnant women PE providers are not impacted by this change. Work Requirement compliance can be met by completing a work requirement activity or by having an exemption in a qualifying month.

PE Providers are required to assess individuals presumed to be in the Medicaid Expansion Group to determine if they meet Medicaid Work Requirements. PE providers must review the [PE Medicaid Work Requirements Training](#) before determining an individual eligible for PE.

What are Medicaid Work Requirements?

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, including work requirements. Starting May 1, 2026, Nebraska Medicaid will begin enforcing work requirements for new applicants and existing Medicaid members under Medicaid expansion, also known as Heritage Health Adult.

Work requirements are activities Medicaid members and applicants under Medicaid expansion must complete to get health insurance through Nebraska Medicaid.

What is the Medicaid Expansion Group? (Also Known as Heritage Health Adult)

People enrolled in Medicaid expansion are Medicaid members who:

- Are ages 19-64
- Are not pregnant
- Are not found eligible on the basis of a disability
- Are not eligible for Medicare
- Meet income limits (up to 133% of the federal poverty level or about \$21,228 per year for one person or \$43,896 for a family of four)
- Are a U.S. citizen or meet immigration rules

How do I know if someone may be in the Medicaid Expansion Group?

[The Nebraska Presumptive Eligibility Determination Form](#) asks providers to specify what category of eligibility an applicant is presumed to be in. PE providers will determine this by comparing the applicants income and household size to the [program chart](#) eligibility categories. This is done in section 3 of the eligibility form. Applicants who fall into the Medicaid Expansion/Heritage Health Adult group will need to be asked additional questions to determine compliance for Medicaid Work Requirements.

How do I assess an applicant for Medicaid Work Requirements?

After determining that an applicant may be in the Medicaid Expansion/Heritage Health Adult group, the PE provider should go to the PE Determination Screener Addendum (located on page 4 of the PE Eligibility Determination Form) and begin asking the questions listed. Each section of the PE Determination Screener Addendum states whether providers should consider circumstances for the current month, or the month prior to the PE determination.

Once an applicant answers yes to any of the questions, complete section E of the PE Determination Screener Addendum . When Section E is complete, the PE provider can resume the PE determination form. If the applicant does not meet Medicaid Work Requirements either by completing a work requirement activity or by having an exemption, the applicant cannot be found presumptively eligible.

Do I need to verify an applicant's work requirement activity or exemption?

No, the PE patient only needs to attest to the information on the PE Determination Screener Addendum.

How can someone meet work requirements?

Medicaid members and applicants must spend at least 80 hours in at least one of the work requirement activities. Members can complete multiple activities to reach the 80 hours.

Work Requirement Activities

- Working
- Attending school or an apprenticeship
- Participating in a work program
- Volunteering
- Earning the federal minimum threshold, which is the equivalent of 80 hours worked at the federal minimum wage (currently \$580)

Medicaid Members and applicants may not have to meet work requirements if they meet one of the following exemptions:

Work Requirement Exemptions

- Members of recognized Native American tribes
- People who are medically frail or have special medical needs
- Caretakers or guardians of children age 13 or younger
- Caretakers or guardians of individuals with disabilities
- Some people may not have to meet work requirements if they have a temporary hardship
- For a full list of exemptions see the work requirements [webpage](#)

Provider Resources

- For more information about Medicaid Work Requirements view this [website](#).
- An in-depth Medicaid Work Requirements Training for PE providers can be found [here](#).
- Please email DHHS.MedicaidPE@nebraska.gov with any questions