

To: Nebraska Medicaid Managed Care Plans
From: Drew Gonshorowski, Director *DG*
Date: April 1, 2026
Re: Medicaid Work Requirements

This health plan advisory is being issued to the Nebraska Medicaid managed care plans of upcoming changes to Medicaid eligibility requirements, effective **May 1, 2026**.

H.R. 1, passed into federal law on July 4, 2025, introduced Medicaid work requirements as a condition for Medicaid eligibility. Starting 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.

Medicaid expansion includes people aged 19-64 who have a low income, get their health insurance through Nebraska Medicaid are not pregnant, are not entitled to or enrolled in Medicare, and are not eligible for Medicaid on the basis of a disability.

Individuals can meet work requirements by completing work requirement activities such as working, attending school or an apprenticeship, participating in a work program, or volunteering. Individuals can also meet work requirements by earning the federal minimum threshold, which is the equivalent of 80 hours worked at the federal minimum wage (currently \$580).

Beneficiaries enrolled under expansion may be exempt from completing work requirement activities. These exemptions include –but are not limited to– 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, and caretakers or guardians of individuals with disabilities. Some people also may not need to complete work requirement activities if they have a temporary hardship reason. For a full list of exemptions, please see the work requirements [webpage](#).

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will try to use information we already have available to see if beneficiaries and new applicants have met work requirements. If DHHS does not have enough information, we will contact the individual to ask for more information.


Resources

For more information on work requirements: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/WorkRequirements.aspx>

Included on the webpage are resources such as:

- [Work Requirements Frequently Asked Questions](#) / [Spanish](#)
- [Nebraska Department of Labor online resources](#) for people that need help finding a job.

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please email: DHHS.MLTCEXperience@nebraska.gov. Health plans should also copy their contract manager.



Health Plan Advisories, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Heritage-Health-Plan-Advisories.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date on new health plan advisories.