

Medicaid Eligibility Changes

Because of federal rule changes, Virginia must make changes to our Medicaid program. The changes are aimed at people who get Medicaid healthcare, but Medicaid CCC Plus and DD Waiver users will also be impacted in some cases. You must receive Medicaid to use a CCC Plus or DD Waiver, so always ensure that your Medicaid coverage is active.

Changes for Current and New Medicaid Members

Citizenship Status- U.S. Citizens are still eligible for Medicaid. As of October 1, 2026, adult noncitizens must be legal permanent residents, Cuban-Haitian Entrants and Compact of Free Association (COFA) Migrants. Medicaid Waiver users must continue to be eligible for Medicaid to keep their Waiver, so they must be eligible in one of these remaining categories. Anyone impacted by this change should have received a mailing from their Medicaid eligibility team at their local county or city office.

Retroactive Coverage- Retroactive coverage can go back and pay bills from a time before you were eligible for Medicaid. As of January 1, 2027, retroactive Medicaid is limited to one month for Medicaid expansion and two months for other Medicaid members

Renewal Frequency- If you receive Medicaid due to Medicaid expansion (not through a Medicaid Waiver), you will have to renew your coverage more often. Starting January 1, 2027, Virginia is required to review Medicaid expansion members eligibility every 6 months. All other members will continue to be renewed once a year.

Work Requirements- There are new requirements for people who receive Medicaid to work, volunteer, or be in a work training program. As of January 1, 2027, Medicaid members (19-64) with income at or under 138% of the Federal Poverty Level and not eligible for Medicare must work/volunteer, or participate in work training or education to keep coverage. **This does not apply to children, pregnant individuals, adults with disabilities, or those over age 64.**

Important Reminder

Medicaid is a big system and there can be mistakes. If you are being told to renew more often, that your coverage is lost, or you must meet work requirements even if you have a disability, reach out to your local Department of Social Services immediately to connect with your local Medicaid eligibility worker. Keep copies of anything you submit to Medicaid.

If you are losing coverage and will lose your Waiver, immediately notify your Community Services Board Support Coordinator so you can discuss alternative options.

Resources

- The Arc of Northern Virginia's Resource library with fact sheets on Medicaid and Waivers- <https://thearcofnova.org/resource-library/>
- Look up your local Department of Social Services (DSS) office- <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/localagency/>
- Fairfax County information on benefits changes- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/public-assistance-employment-services/snap/changes-to-benefits>