



H.R. 1 Community Briefing

August 26, 2026



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- **In July 2025, Congress passed a bill that makes changes to the SNAP and Medicaid programs. President Trump signed that bill into law.**
- **This law is also known as H.R. 1.**
 - Changes to SNAP began in 2025.
 - Changes to Medicaid are coming in 2027.



- **September 1, 2025: End of Pennsylvania's SNAP work requirements waivers**
 - Approximately 132,000 SNAP recipients affected by the end of previous waivers.
- **October 27, 2025: Limitation of heating and shelter utility allowance**
 - Households that receive SNAP and LIHEAP previously able to receive extra SNAP benefits through heating and shelter utility allowance; now limited to households with elderly or disabled member under H.R. 1.
 - Approximately 72,000 households had SNAP allotments reduced.
- **November 1, 2025:**
 - **Eligibility Changes for Noncitizens**
 - Fewer categories of noncitizens eligible for SNAP; approx. 20,000 affected
 - **Expansion of SNAP work requirements**
 - SNAP recipients must meet work requirements if they are:
 - 18-64 (up from 54);
 - Parents of a dependent child 14 or older (down from 18 or older); and,
 - Considered physically and mentally able to work.
 - Ended exemptions for veterans and current/former foster youth ages 18-24.
 - Expanded work requirements to approximately 112,000 SNAP recipients



To date, approximately 89,000 Pennsylvanians have lost SNAP benefits since September 1, 2025.

That means approximately 89,000 Pennsylvanians have lost access to life-sustaining food benefits because of H.R. 1.



October 1, 2026:

- **SNAP administrative cost sharing:**
 - Generally been shared 50-50 by states and the federal government, changes mandated by H.R. 1 will cause the state's share of administrative costs of the SNAP program to rise significantly, to a 75-25 split starting FFY 2026-27.
- **SNAP ED Closes**
 - \$29M funding for this program was cancelled in H.R. 1
 - DHS will use carryover funding to continue through FFY26
- **Medicaid Noncitizen Eligibility Changes**
 - Certain categories of noncitizens (refugees, lawfully-present immigrants) are no longer eligible for Medicaid/CHIP
- **Ongoing in 2026: SNAP Payment Error Rate**



January 1, 2027 – Major Changes to Medicaid:

Affecting approximately **800,000 Pennsylvanians** in the Medicaid expansion group (Adults 19-64)

- **Work Requirements**
 - Adults ages 19-64 who do not have a dependent child under 14 years old must show that they are meeting or exempt from work requirements.
 - This will be reviewed during application, renewal, and when an individual becomes eligible for Medicaid expansion between renewals.
 - If a recipient must meet the requirement but does not follow the new rules or report to PA DHS, they will lose Medicaid coverage.
- **Six-month Eligibility Checks**
 - Medicaid expansion adults ages 19-64 will need to have their Medicaid eligibility checked by completing a renewal every six months instead of every year.
- **Retroactive Coverage**
 - Decreases from three months to:
 - One month for expansion adults.
 - Two months for all other Medicaid.



When will these changes apply?

- **For NEW Medicaid Applicants:**

Apply On or After January 1, 2027	Upon Renewal
Applicants not exempt from work requirements will need to demonstrate that they are meeting the work requirement or exemption in the month before they apply. (If someone applies in January 2027, they need to show work in December 2026)	Continued eligibility is assessed at every renewal. Recipients will need to show they were exempt or met work requirements in one of the six months since application.



When will these changes apply?

- **CURRENT Medicaid Expansion Recipients:**

Renewal dates in Sept 2026-Jan 2027	Renewal dates on or after Feb 2027
Recipients will be renewed under the pre-H.R. 1 rules; they will not need to renew again for another year.	Recipients will be renewed under the new H.R. 1 rules, must renew again in six months, AND will need to show they were exempt or met work requirements in one of the six months since last renewal.



How to Meet Medicaid Work Requirements

- Applicants and recipients must do one or a combo of these options for at least 80 hours a month:
 - Work
 - Attend school at least half time
 - Volunteer or do community service
 - Participate in a job training program
- Applicants and recipients can also meet work requirements if their household income is at least \$580 per month; electronic data and/or County Assistance Office staff will verify



Medicaid Work Requirement Exemptions

- Applicants and recipients may be exempt from work requirements if they are:
 - Parents/caretakers of a child under 14 OR an individual with a disability
 - Pregnant or postpartum;
 - Members of American Indian or Alaska Native tribes;
 - Veteran with a VA-determined total disability;
 - In treatment for alcohol or substance use disorder;
 - In prison or jail in the last 4 months;
 - Former foster care under the age of 26;
 - Meeting TANF work requirements;
 - Receiving SNAP and subject to SNAP work requirements; OR
 - Medically frail or have special medical needs – more on this in a moment
- Exemptions are also available for temporary hardship situations, like:
 - Recent stay in a hospital, nursing facility, assisted living facility, personal care home, psychiatric, or another residential care facility.
 - Travel to receive medical treatment for a serious health condition for self or dependent.



Providing Information for Work Requirements and Exemptions

- Applicants and recipients will need to provide information that they are meeting work requirements or are exempt.
- DHS will try to use information already available, including trusted data sources, to verify someone is meeting work requirements or exempt.
 - We are committed to onboarding additional data sources.
- If we are unable to verify information electronically:
 - Self-attestation will be accepted in 2027 for work requirement activity participation and exemptions (not income).
 - Applicants and recipients are encouraged to report information fully on their application and/or renewal so additional follow-up is not needed
 - Verification will be required in 2028.



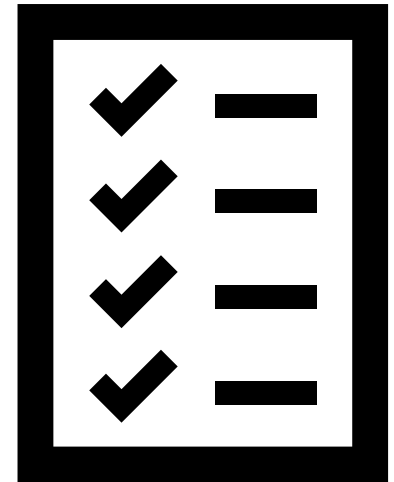
Medical frailty is an exemption from work requirements that is required by H.R. 1.

We are working with CMS to refine our approach, which relies on multiple trusted sources and science.



Certain people are exempt from the work requirement if they are or have a:

- Blind or disabled
- Substance use disorder (SUD)
- Disabling mental disorder
- Physical, intellectual, or developmental disability that significantly impairs their ability to perform one or more activities of daily living
- Serious or complex medical condition



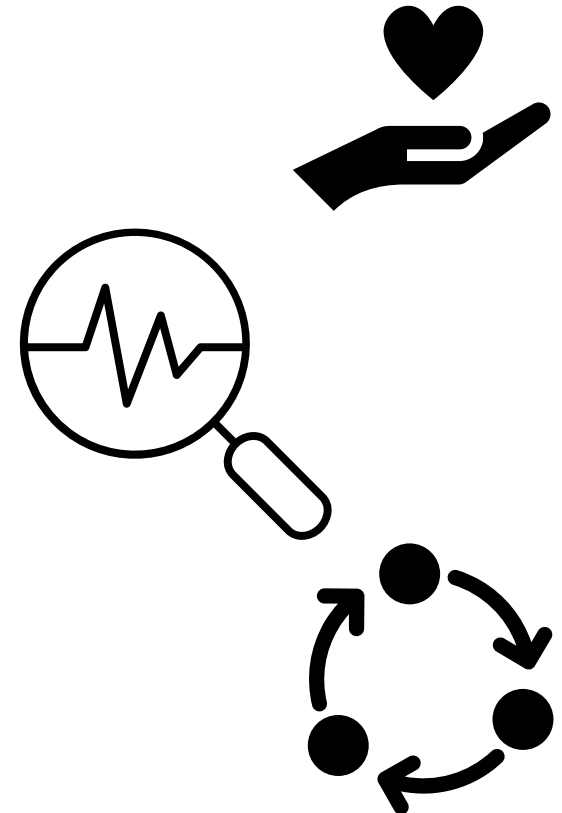


Goals:

- **Maintain coverage** for those that remain eligible
- **Minimize paperwork** burden for beneficiaries, clinicians, caseworkers

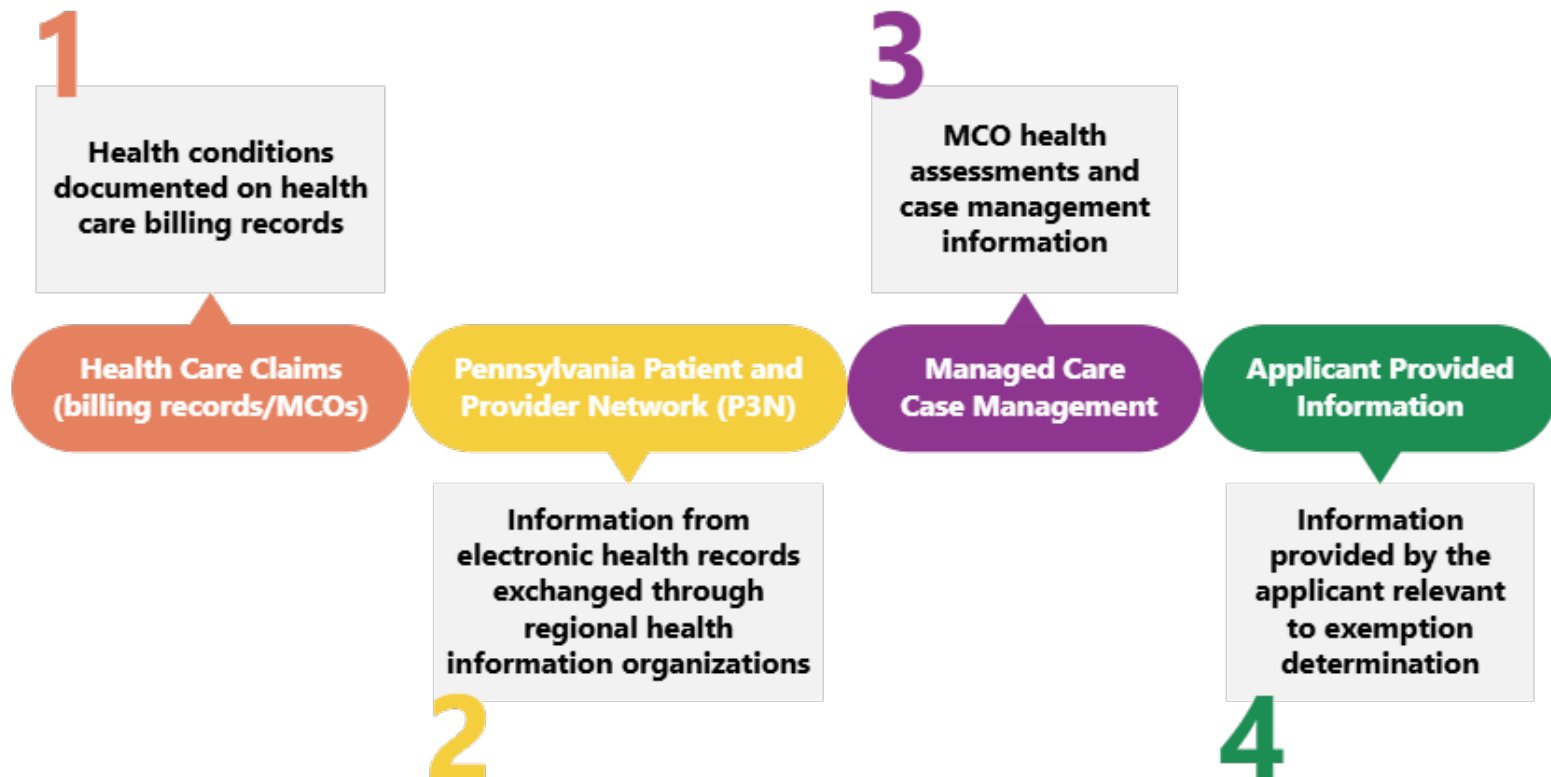
Process:

- Leverage **existing data** sources to the extent possible
- Utilize a **continuous improvement framework** with rapid-cycle innovation methods to evaluate and improve our approach in year one





- **Data first process: Use information from multiple sources to identify presence of health conditions meeting definition of medical frailty**





Interim final rule issued June 1 unexpectedly changed requirements

Identify presence of one or more health condition(s) meeting definition of medical frailty



Severity of the health condition significantly impairs ability to comply with work requirements



List of health conditions meeting definition of medical frailty



Group conditions into three categories:

- **Category 1:** Medically frail based on presence of high-risk, severe condition
- **Category 2:** Medically frail based on presence of a chronic condition **with additional supporting evidence of severity, complexity, treatment burden, functional impairment, or overall worse health**
- **Category 3:** Medically frail based on the presence of a significant acute or temporary condition



Design principles for severity indicators

Available



Consistently available
in administrative
records and data

Meaningful



Identify higher
complexity care or
supported by
scientific literature

Transparent



Clear and explainable
for stakeholders

Feasible



Manageable for
clinicians and analysts

Efficient



Limits paperwork,
cost, and reliance on
third-party vendors

Adaptable



Built for innovation,
learning,
improvement



Severity indicators

Serious, complex, or frequent healthcare use

- Examples: skilled nursing facility admission, repeat emergency care, frequent outpatient visits, high cost

Complex treatment (high risk, frequent monitoring)

- Examples: Dialysis, chemotherapy, radiation

Services that directly reflect functional limitations

- Examples: Durable medical equipment, receiving home health services

Risk factors for impairment and mortality

- Examples: Polypharmacy, multiple chronic conditions, advanced age



How you can help



These are unprecedented changes for our Medicaid recipients, and we are concerned that 310,000 Pennsylvanians could lose their health care coverage because of these changes.

Our concern is not that people will lose coverage because they're not eligible, but because more hurdles are being put in their way.



August 2026 – January 2027 PA DHS Information Outreach:

PA DHS will be sending information about these changes to affected Medicaid recipients by mail, text, and automated call.

- Initial Outreach letters will be sent to affected recipients
 - Texts will come from **PA DHS 69217**
 - *“New Medicaid work requirements start in 2027. Find out about requirements, exemptions, and how to report to PA Human Services at www.dhs.pa.gov/medicaidchanges”*
 - Automated Calls will come from **PA DHS 1-877-839-4782**
 - Letters and automated calls will continue beyond January 2027 for newly eligible recipients
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- **Information will detail the upcoming changes and what Medicaid recipients can be doing now to prepare:**
 - Review requirements and exemptions and take steps needed before their next renewal
 - Update address and sign up for texts and e-notices
 - Many self-service functions are available on www.dhs.pa.gov/compass,
 - Remember, there's no line online!



Most Immediate Need:

For clients: If you receive information from PA DHS, please read it!

- Update address with DHS **AND** USPS and sign up for [texts](#) and e-notices
- Many self-service functions are available on www.dhs.pa.gov/compass, and there's no line online.

For our partners:

- **Become a [COMPASS community partner](#)**
 - COMPASS Community Partners help Pennsylvania residents apply for services like Medicaid and SNAP.
 - Partners can initiate and actively track applications they submit.



Help Pennsylvanians Meet Work Requirements:

- Have volunteer opportunities? List them on PA Navigate at www.pa-navigate.org
 - Providers can also sign up at www.panavigatehelp.org to list your organization and volunteer opportunities



- [How to Find Volunteer Opportunities in Your Community with PA Navigate - YouTube](#)



- Visit www.dhs.pa.gov/medicaidchanges for a media toolkit including
 - Sample newsletter messages
 - Social media posts and graphics
 - Print flyers
 - Examples of client outreach texts
 - FAQ on upcoming changes
 - Screener, videos, and more coming soon!
- **As additional materials, notices, and direct outreach is finalized, copies will be available on PA DHS' website**
- **Limitations on paid marketing will require assistance from community – what kind of materials will be helpful to each of you? Think platforms, print vs. digital, etc.**
- **Email suggestions & needs to ra-pwdhspressoffice@pa.gov**



Share resources with your community

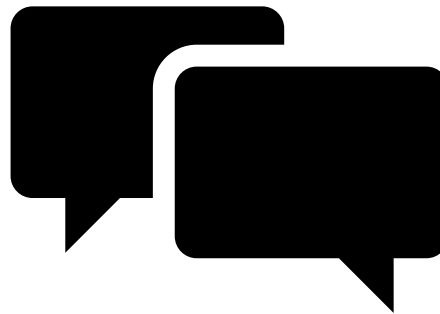
- **Websites:**
 - www.dhs.pa.gov/FederalCuts - Details all H.R. 1 changes
 - www.dhs.pa.gov/MedicaidChanges - Details Medicaid work requirements & six-month renewals
 - www.dhs.pa.gov/Work - Details SNAP work requirements
 - www.dhs.pa.gov/Data - Medicaid and SNAP enrollment data
- Call the H.R. 1 FAQ helpline at **1-877-883-6383**
- Sign up for **Human Services Helpers Substack** – get regular updates about programs and services from PA DHS, including suggestions on how you can help.
 - pennsylvaniadhs.substack.com



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- **Instagram:** @PAHumanServices, @PADHSArkoosh
- **Threads:** @PAHumanServices
- **Substack:** pennsylvaniaDHS.substack.com

Direct questions and requests to
[RA-HSPADHS-H.R. 1@pa.gov](mailto:RA-HSPADHS-H.R.1@pa.gov)



Thank You!