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MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA) RULES ARE CHANGING IN 2027.

THIS LETTER HAS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (PA DHS) ABOUT YOUR MA AND NEW WORK REQUIREMENTS.

You are receiving this letter from PA DHS because starting **January 1, 2027**, a new federal law will change the rules for who can get MA. To get or keep MA health coverage, many adults ages 19 to 64 will need to provide information they are meeting work requirements or meet an exemption. This letter explains how to meet work requirements and who is exempt from the new rules.

The following people in your household may be affected by these changes and will need provide information that they are meeting the work requirement or are exempt from the rule at your next renewal in 2027:

What do I need to do now?

Review this letter and take steps needed before your next renewal so that you do not lose your MA.

1. Check if you are exempt (*see Am I exempt from work requirements?*).
2. If you are not exempt, you should plan to do work, school, training, volunteering/community service, or a combination of these **for at least 80 hours per month**.

To make sure you get important information from PA DHS regarding your MA, keep your address and contact information up to date with PA DHS and the United States Postal Service (USPS). Report changes to your contact information:

- **Online:** Visit www.dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS or use the MyCOMPASS PA mobile app
- **By Phone:** Call the Customer Service Center at 877-395-8930 or 1-215-560-7226 (for Philadelphia residents)
- **Mail/In Person:** Submit to your local County Assistance Office

What will happen when it's time for me to renew my MA?

PA DHS must review your case at your **next scheduled renewal due in 2027** to see if you meet the work requirements or if you are exempt. We will try to use the information already available to us about your case.

If PA DHS needs more information, we will send you a letter and give you 30 days to provide information that you are meeting work requirements or are exempt from the new rules. If this happens, make sure to respond to the letter and provide information by the due date in the letter.

There are three ways you can provide information:

- Upload documents through COMPASS at www.dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS or the myCOMPASS PA mobile app
- Mail or bring documents to your local County Assistance Office
- Call us if you need help or to report meeting an exemption.
 - You can call 877-395-8930 (or 215-560-7226 in Philadelphia) for help with reporting.

If you do not provide information that you meet the work requirements or are exempt, you may lose your MA benefits.

Am I exempt from work requirements?

You may be exempt from work requirements if you report and provide information that you are/or were recently:

- Parent, caretaker, or caregiver of child(ren) under 14;
- Parent, caretaker, or caregiver of an individual with disabilities;
- Medically frail or have special medical needs, including:
 - blindness or disability,
 - substance use disorder/addiction,
 - disabling mental disorder,
 - other significant; physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities that make it hard to do daily activities, or
 - serious and/or complex medical condition that makes it difficult to meet work requirements;
- Participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program;
- Pregnant or receiving postpartum coverage through MA;
- In prison or jail or were in prison or jail within the last four months before you applied for MA;
- Formerly in foster care and under age 26;
- Member of recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribes;
- Veteran with a total disability rating (100% rating) from the Veterans Administration;
- Meeting Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work requirements; OR
- Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and are subject to SNAP work requirements.

Also, you may be exempt from work requirements if you experienced one of the following temporary hardship situations and tell us this has happened:

- You stayed in a hospital, nursing facility, assisted living facility, personal care home, psychiatric, or another residential care facility.
- You or your dependent had to travel outside your community to get care to treat a serious health condition.

What are work requirements? How do you meet the work requirements?

Under a federal law passed in 2025, some adults must work or participate in other community engagement activities to be eligible for Medicaid (MA). If the work requirement applies to you, you must meet the work requirement or you could lose your MA.

If you are not exempt, you must provide information that you meet work requirements. You can meet work requirements by doing **at least 80 hours a month** of the options below. You can do these activities in any month between your last application or renewal and your next renewal in 2027.

Working

Working can include:

- A job;
- Self-employment;
- Owning a business;
- Working as an independent contractor where you get paid to work (gig work); or
- Unpaid work or work in exchange for goods or services.

Education

Educational programs can include:

- High school;
- General Educational Development (GED) programs;
- Community colleges;
- Four-year college or university;
- Graduate schools; or
- Career or technical schools.

Each school decides whether someone is enrolled full time, half time, or less than half time. You must attend at least half time OR meet the 80 hour/month requirement by combining another activity.

Work or Job Training

A work or job training program is an approved program that helps a person prepare for, find, or keep a job. This includes certain federal, state, local, and veterans' employment and training programs. Programs that focus mostly on job search may not count.

Volunteering or Community Service

Volunteer work and community service are activities people do without getting paid. The goal is to help, support, or improve the community. These activities are done with an organization that helps the community, such as a nonprofit group, a government office, a school, a church, or another community group.

Visit www.panavigate.org for help with finding an organization offering volunteer hours that can help you meet work requirements.

You may do any combination of the above that adds up to 80 hours a month to meet the work requirement. You may also meet the work requirement if the total income of the countable people in your household is at least \$580 a month before taxes. If you work seasonally, you meet the requirement if the average monthly income of those countable household members for the last six months was at least \$580 before taxes.

Where can I find more information?

Visit www.dhs.pa.gov/MedicaidChanges. You can also call 1-877-883-6383 for more information.