

STAY COVERED STAY HEALTHY

AGENCIES



Medicaid Work Requirements Are Coming in December (Iowa) and January (Illinois)

This document has information that will help you navigate an individual presenting with issues maintaining Medicaid/state health insurance coverage or has recently lost those benefits. They may also refer to their insurance under one of the following names:

- Aetna Better Health of Illinois
- Blue Cross Community Health Plans
- Humana
- Meridian Health Plan
- Molina Healthcare of Illinois
- Iowa Total Care
- Molina Healthcare of Iowa
- Wellpoint Iowa

The workflow on the second page of this document provides a step-by-step process to assist individuals if you are unable to assist them on-site in real time.

Medicaid is a critical resources providing families access to healthcare that otherwise would not have it. Due to changes from HR1, individuals will now be required to provide proof of work or “community engagement” activities to retain benefits if they are in the “Medicaid expansion population” – meaning individuals over the age of 18 but earn less than 135% of the federal poverty level.

Overview

Federal changes to Medicaid are coming, with look back periods that could reach into September, 2026 in Iowa, and October 2026 in Illinois.

The biggest changes are work and service requirements, which will require individuals in the Medicaid expansion population to do any mix of the following for at least 80 hours a month, or earn \$580 per month:

- Work for 80 hours a month
- Volunteer for 80 hours a month
- Attend post-secondary education for 80 hours a month (minimum part-time enrollment)
- Participate in a work training program for 80 hours a month

It is not yet clear how individuals will be expected to track and report their compliance with these requirements to either state.

Exemptions from these work requirements include:

- Are pregnant, or you had a baby in the last 12 months, and you were on Medicaid
- Are under 19 and over 64 years of age
- Take care of a child under 14, or you take care of someone with a disability
- Are in jail or prison, or you got out recently
- Are in a drug or alcohol treatment program
- Have a disability, are very frail, or have a serious health problem
- Already meet the work rules for SNAP or FIP
- Are a veteran with a full disability rating
- Are American Indian or Alaska Native

Detailed Illinois Info



Detailed Iowa Info



How to Handle a Referral for Navigation Assistance

If you are working with an individual who needs assistance with Medicaid, please track that interaction in the tracker below, and utilize the workflow on this sheet to ensure they are referred to the best, most efficient assistance source. Data tracking ensures that we have an accurate picture of the impact of Medicaid coverage changes.

Step 1: Track the interaction by scanning the QR code at the bottom of this page.

Step 2: Determine whether you can assist them immediately on-site. If you can, do so.

Step 3: If you cannot assist them on-site, refer to the following resources, in this order:

1. If they have children in a local school district, refer them to the appropriate district staff and include name, email, phone number, and student names with the subject line: Medicaid Assistance
 - Davenport – Shaney Ford: fordsh@davenportschools.org or (563) 445-5000
 - Rock Island – Milan Alicia Sanders: alicia.sanders@rimsd41.org or (309) 793-5900 ext. 10222
 - Moline – Coal Valley Trista Sanders: TSanders@Molineschools.org or (309) 743-8125
 - East Moline – Teresa Dothard-Campbell: tcampbell@emsd37.org or (309) 755-1919 Ext. 3210
2. If they are presenting with disabilities, refer them to the Arc of the Quad Cities: (309) 786-6474
3. If they do not have children or disabilities, refer them to a scheduled appointment with a CHC benefit navigator here: (563) 336-3000 and ask for an appointment with a Community Health Worker
4. If that will not work, refer them to a library based social worker:
 - Davenport: (563) 888-3371, Camara Buckles (563) 326-7832, Library Main Line
 - East Moline: (309) 755-9614, ext. 106

Tracking Form



Moline Social Worker



Davenport Social Worker

