

Staying Updated on Changes to Medicaid (Medical Assistance) and Protecting Coverage



A new Federal law will change Medicaid, known as Medical Assistance in PA, for certain recipients over the next several years. Staying up to date is vital for families to keep coverage.



KEEP IN MIND...

There are **NO CHANGES** to Medicaid/CHIP for children under 19 or foster youth/former foster youth under age 26.

Next Steps for Current Medicaid Recipients

Current recipients can still apply, renew, and access healthcare as usual.

To stay updated about Medicaid changes and new rules, current recipients should:

- **Watch for mail:** Read ALL mail and/or COMPASS messages carefully!
- Visit dhs.pa.gov/text to sign up for texts and **get faster notifications**

Need to update an address?

Individuals can visit [USPS.com/move](https://usps.com/move) to update their address or go to a local Post Office to update in person!

Don't forget! – Update info with Medicaid in one of these ways:

- COMPASS:
 - ONLINE: Confirm and update addresses and other contact information in the **myCOMPASS PA** mobile app (available for free from Google Play or the App Store) or through their COMPASS account at compass.state.pa.us
- BY PHONE: Call the Statewide Customer Service Center at **1-877-395-8930**

NEED HELP WITH A MEDICAID APPLICATION?

Contact PA Health Access Network (PHAN) at pahealthaccess.org or by calling/texting **(877) 570-3642**

IN CASE OF COVERAGE LOSS

Apply to Pennie: enroll.pennie.com
Utilize Community Health Centers (FQHCs): my.pachc.org

Was it an error?

Mistakes happen – consider an appeal! Find support here: phlp.org or here: palegalaid.net

SHARE YOUR MEDICAID STORY AND STAY UPDATED

Sharing your story and experiences can help Policymakers understand the real life impact.



← Share your story here!

We're still learning more about these changes. As we learn more, this document will be updated on our website: alliesforchildren.org

What Adults Need to Know About Changes to Medicaid (Medical Assistance)

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IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR ADULTS

New Requirements for the Medicaid Expansion Population

The **Medicaid Expansion** group includes anyone who qualifies for Medicaid based on income alone. These are adults ages 19-64 with incomes at or below 138% of the Poverty Level who don't qualify for Medicare.

Starting in January 2027

- **EVERYONE** in Medicaid Expansion must renew coverage every six months instead of once a year.
- **SOME INDIVIDUALS** in Medicaid Expansion must work, be in school, and/or participate in community engagement, like volunteering, for at least 80 hours a month. *However, some people don't have to meet these new rules (see below).*

The new work requirements will not apply if a person is...

- Age 65 or older
- Under age 19
- Enrolled in Medicare Part A or B
- Disabled (SSI or SSDI) or a disabled veteran
- Are an American Indian or Alaskan Native
- A parent, guardian or caregiver of a child under 14* OR a person with a disability
- Pregnant or in one-year Medicaid postpartum coverage period
- "Medically frail"** or special medical needs
- Participating in substance use treatment program
- Compliant with TANF or SNAP work requirement
- Incarcerated currently or within prior 3 months
- Foster youth/former foster youth under age 26

*Parents or related caretakers of a child under 18 will not have to worry about the work requirements.

** To know if someone meets the definition of "medically frail," watch the PA DHS Medicaid website for updates.

Individuals should **watch for mail and COMPASS notices to see if these exemptions or requirements apply to them.** They can **ask their County Assistance Office if they're not sure.**

For more help, **find legal assistance here:** palegalaid.net or **application support here:** pahealthaccess.org

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What Adults Need to Know About Changes to Medicaid (Medical Assistance)

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR IMMIGRANTS

Lawfully Present children under 21 are exempt from the following!

Starting October 1, 2026, adult immigrants must belong to one of these groups to keep or get federal coverage:

- **Green Card Holders who have had their card for 5 years or more** (Note: Refugees, Asylees, Victims of Human Trafficking, Veterans, and Active Duty Military do not have to wait 5 years and are eligible once they receive their Green Card)
- **Cuban-Haitian Entrants**
- **COFA Migrants** (from the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, or Palau)
- **Pregnant or Recently Pregnant Individuals** (within 12 months of giving birth)

Important Exceptions

- Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) remains available
- Adults with very low incomes who do not meet federal rules may qualify for Pennsylvania state-funded Medicaid. They should check with their County Assistance Office to see if they qualify.

What Individuals Should Do Next

- **Read and reply to mail:** Letters started going out in June 2026. They should respond to the letter if they don't have any questions.
- **Update information:** Make sure the local office has a copy of any Green Cards, knows if they are pregnant or recently gave birth, and has the correct ages for their children.
- **Update address if needed:** Use the myCOMPASS PA app, visit compass.state.pa.us, or call 1-877-395-8930.

Someone unsure of their status or has questions? They should contact their immigration lawyer or local legal resources like [Hello Neighbor](#) or [JFCS Pittsburgh](#).

If someone is eligible for a Green Card but hasn't applied yet, doing so might help them get coverage sooner.



Hello Neighbor



JFCS Pittsburgh

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