

Medicaid & Apple Health Changes Related to HR1/ The One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Key Messages For staff:

- A new federal law is changing eligibility and reverification requirements for people enrolled in Medicaid, known as Apple Health in Washington State.
- We have had many questions about how the new requirements in HR 1 or the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will impact our community. Right now, we know which groups will be impacted by Medicaid changes and when these changes will go into effect. As we know more, we will share the information with you.
- Over the next year, we will be working with the state and other health care partners to raise awareness of changes for Medicaid enrollees and giving them the information and support they need to maintain coverage.

What is happening?

- Changes are impacting three groups of people currently covered by the Medicaid program, known as Apple Health in Washington State:
 - legal non-residents
 - people made eligible for Medicaid during the program expansion created by the Affordable Care Act
 - traditional Medicaid/Apple Health enrollees

Legal non-residents

- Beginning October 1, 2026, Medicaid eligibility will be restricted to green card holders, certain Cuban-Haitian entrants, and people living in the United States under a Compact of Free Association, known as COFA citizens.
- Previously qualified noncitizens will also lose access to Medicaid coverage under the new law, including people granted asylum or refugee status, humanitarian parolees, and some survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking who have been granted immigration status.
- These patients may be eligible to receive charity care from our hospital under Washington State's charity care law.

Medicaid Expansion Population

- Beginning December 31, 2026, people who are part of the Medicaid expansion population will be required to provide verification that they are working, in school or complete 80 hours a month of community volunteer work.
- There will be some waivers for people with children under the age of 13 or who are medically frail.

- Right now, we do not know what the process will be for submitting proof of employment. When we know more, we will share it, and our plan for informing our community about the new process.

All Medicaid Enrollees

- Beginning October 1, 2027, all people enrolled in Medicaid or Apple Health will need to prove they have continued eligibility for the program every six months.
- Health care providers will play a vital role in helping people understand the steps they need to show their continued eligibility.
- Right now, we do not know what the process will be for this recertification. When we know more we will share it, and our plan for informing our community about the new process.