

Connecting Communities & Medicaid Session #6

July 8, 2026



Connecting Communities and Medicaid (CCM)

- Department Updates (Shadonna Headen)
- Updates on H.R. 1 Work and Community Engagement Requirements (Gina Hamilton)
- Questions and Answers (Denita Nash)
- Closing (Shadonna Headen)



Department Updates

Shadonna Headen

Senior Engagement Manager

Office of Communications and Engagement
Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid)

NC Medicaid Updates

[Governor Stein Signs State Budget](#)

- Gov. Josh Stein signed Senate Bill 257 into law on July 7, 2026.
- Full funding
 - Ensures Medicaid operations for the fiscal year.



H.R. 1 Federal Updates Train the Trainer session

H.R.1 Train the Trainer sessions are ongoing.

Participants will learn how to:

- Deliver the H.R.1 requirements
- Present this information within their community
- Complete one full Train the Trainer session (required)

The next session is scheduled for July 21, 2026 at 2 p.m.

Please complete this form if you are interested in participating: [H.R. 1 Train the Trainer Interest Form](#)

Questions or Comments please email Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov



Updates on H.R. 1

Gina Hamilton

Deputy Director

Member Operations

Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid)

Eligibility Changes for Certain Non-citizens

Beginning October 1, 2026, federal law will only allow the following non-citizens to have health coverage through Medicaid.

- Lawful permanent residents (people with a green card)
- Children up to age 19 and women who are pregnant or within 12 months postpartum (after birth), who are lawfully residing in the United States but do not have permanent immigration status
- People with Cuban or Haitian entrant status
- Citizens of the Freely Associated States (Micronesia, Marshall Islands or Palau) living in the U.S



Work and Community Engagement Requirements

Beginning January 1, 2027, most adults who have or apply for health coverage through Medicaid will need to work or participate in approved activities.

These rules apply to adults ages 19 through 64 who:

- Do not have a disability
- Are not pregnant or eligible for postpartum coverage (12 months after a pregnancy ends)
- Are not a parent, guardian, caretaker relative or family caregiver of a dependent child under age 14 or a person with a disability
- Do not qualify for an exception or exclusion



Exceptions

Exceptions include:

- Children up to age 19
- People who qualify for Medicare
- People who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance or (SSDI)
- People who are incarcerated (in jail or prison) or have been released from incarceration in the last 90 days



Exclusions

Excluded individuals are not subject to work requirements and are evaluated in month of application. This includes:

- “Medically frail” – A person with special medical needs that significantly their ability to comply with the work and community engagement requirement, including:
 - Blind and Disabled
 - Have a Substance Use Disorder
 - Have a Disabling Mental Disorder
 - Have a physical, intellectual or developmental disability that impairs their ability to perform 1 or more activities of daily living
 - Have a Serious or Complex Medical Condition
- Participants in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program
- Parents, guardians, caretaker relatives or family caregivers of a dependent child under age 14 or a person with a disability



Exclusions Continued

- Veterans with a total disability rating (100%)
- Members of a household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and not exempt from SNAP work requirements
- People who already meet the work rules for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- American Indians, Alaska Natives or other members eligible for Indian Health Services (IHS)
- Former foster care youth under age 26 and those currently in foster care
- Inmates of a public institution
- Pregnant or eligible for postpartum coverage (12 months after a pregnancy ends)



Work and Community Engagement Requirements

To have health coverage through Medicaid, adults ages 19 through 64 who do not meet an exception or exclusion, must:

- Work at a paid job, in-kind work or a participate in a work training program
- Volunteer in the community
- Attend school at least half-time (usually 6 credit hours)
- Have a monthly income that is at least \$580
- Be a seasonal worker whose average monthly income for the last 6 months is at least \$580 (equal to the federal minimum wage)

These activities can be combined. They must add up to 80 hours for the month. To find out if an activity meets the requirements, contact your local Department of Social Services.



Work and Community Engagement Requirements

What counts as work? In addition to a paid job, the law allows:

- **Job Search.** A supervised job search, a structured employment program where people look for jobs with support from a counselor or job search training. Job search activities conducted to meet unemployment insurance requirements also count. These hours must be less than half of the required 80 hours each month.
- **In-kind work.** This is work where you are paid with something other than money. For example, a property manager who receives free rent in exchange for building duties can meet the 80-hour requirement.
- **Unpaid work.** This is different from community service as it can benefit a private company or an individual. This includes internships, a trial work period and unpaid caregiving hours of a family caregiver, who does not meet the exclusion of parents, guardians, caretaker relatives or family caregivers of a dependent child under age 14 or of a person with a disability.



Work and Community Engagement Requirements

What counts as volunteering?

The activity must be completed through a structured program under a non-profit or public organization for the direct benefit of the community. This can be voluntary or court ordered.

What counts as education?

- This includes college, career and technical education (CTE), high school and GED programs.
- Enrollment is determined by the institution and continues through academic breaks.

For example, an individual who graduates from high school in May, enrolls in community college mid-August and applies for Medicaid in July will satisfy the requirements because their status before their break was full-time high school enrollment and within the normal rhythm of school schedules.



Q&A



Resources and Closing

Shadonna Headen
Senior Engagement Manager
Office of Communication and Engagement
Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid)

H.R.1 Webpage

[Home](#) > [Beneficiaries](#) > [The Impact of H.R. 1 and Federal Changes to Medicaid](#)

Medicaid is Changing

[Versión en español](#)

New laws are changing the rules for NC Medicaid. Some people will need to follow new rules to keep their coverage. Some non-citizens will lose their coverage. This page tells you what is changing and what you need to do.

There are four important things to know:

1. [Many adults ages 19 through 64 will have to show they work or participated in an approved activity.](#)
2. [Many adults ages 19 through 64 will have to renew Medicaid every six months.](#)
3. [Medicaid may pay medical bills for care provided before you apply.](#)
4. [Many non-citizens will no longer be able to have Medicaid coverage.](#)

[Beneficiaries](#)

[Apply for Medicaid](#)

[Medicaid Health
Plans and Programs](#)

[Medicaid Programs
and Services](#)

[Medicaid
Recertification](#)

**[The Impact of H.R. 1
and Federal Changes
to Medicaid](#)**

medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/beneficiaries/medicaid-is-changing

NC Medicaid Community Engagement Effort

- NC Medicaid is identifying community organizations, agencies, and individuals who serve or engage people experiencing homelessness across the state.
- If you or your organization provide direct services or support to this population, please complete the form linked below.

Your participation will help us better understand existing resources and service networks.

SCAN



HERE



36th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

- The landmark legislation was passed on July 26, 1990, to expand access and opportunity for all Americans with disabilities.
- The ADA has changed the lives of numerous North Carolinians, as one in four Americans has a disability. The ADA has been a guiding light for NCDHHS, as the department has implemented policies and programs for decades to improve the lives of all North Carolinians.
- Visit the [Health Literacy and Training Resources](#) webpage to:
 - Learn about Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Standards (CLAS)
 - Access Communication Resources
 - Best Practices and More



Expand our Network

Feel free to invite community partners to join the workgroup! Check the chat for the survey link, which will also be included in the meeting notes.

[CCM Interest Form](#)



Additional Questions?

Contact us at:

Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov



Next Meeting

Wednesday, August 12

NC Medicaid understands that together, we can create meaningful impact and improve health outcomes for all Medicaid beneficiaries.

