3 things to know about upcoming changes to Apple Health (Medicaid)

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APPLE HEALTH (MEDICAID)

The federal government is introducing new Medicaid eligibility rules and immigrant coverage changes.

1 Work requirements

(starting January 2027)

Apple Health for Adults enrollees (ages 19–64) must meet a work requirement unless they qualify for an exemption. They can meet this requirement in any of the following ways:

- Completing at least 80 hours a month of work, community service, or a work program
- Enrolling in an educational program at least half-time
- Combining the above activities to total at least 80 hours a month
- Having a monthly household income of at least $580

Work requirements or an exemption must be met in the month before applying, or in any of the six months before renewing coverage. This change does not apply to any other Apple Health programs, including for children, pregnancy services, or long-term care services.

2 Renewals every 6 months

(starting January 2027)

Apple Health for Adults members will need to renew their coverage **every 6 months** instead of 12 months.

This change also only applies to Apple Health for Adults.

What you can do now

Remind Apple Health enrollees to make sure their address, phone, and email in **Washington Healthplanfinder** and with their health plan is current so they don't miss critical notices. Stay tuned to the **Health Care Authority (HCA)** and **CHPW** for updates, and help spread clear, accurate messaging to enrollees and their families.

Need support or have questions?

Contact us at **outreach@chpw.org**.

CHPW members can scan the QR code to update their contact preferences.

3 Immigrant eligibility changes

(starting October 1, 2026)

Some immigrants who currently qualify—including those with temporary refugee or asylum status—will no longer be eligible for federally funded Medicaid coverage. Full Apple Health will be limited to:

- Green card holders who have met, or do not need to meet, the 5-year waiting period
- COFA migrants (people from the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau)
- Cuban/Haitian entrants

Other Apple Health programs, such as Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) and Apple Health for Pregnant Individuals, remain available regardless of immigration status, as long as the programs' eligibility rules are met.