

Medicaid Work Requirements Waiver Information Sheet – Montana

What are Medicaid work requirements?

Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waivers provide states the ability to test new approaches in Medicaid that differ from federal program rules. In January 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a State Medicaid Director Letter (SMDL) which provided guidance to states on making work/community engagement (CE) requirements a condition of obtaining Medicaid eligibility under Section 1115 demonstration waivers.

What is the status of Montana's waiver request?

It was submitted on August 26, 2019 and is still **pending**.

Who is affected by Montana's waiver request?

The waiver request affects non-exempt adults between the age of 19 and 55, with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, who received coverage as a part of the Medicaid expansion.

There are exemptions and they include people who are:

- Medically frail
- Blind or disabled
- Pregnant
- A foster parent
- Full time student
- Exempt from SNAP or TANF work requirements
- Under court ordered supervision
- A victim of domestic violence
- Living in an area with a high poverty designation
- Experiencing an acute medical condition require immediate treatment
- Mentally or physically unable to work
- A primary care giver for a person who is unable to provide self-care
- A person whose income exceeds an amount equal to the average of 80 hours per month multiplied by the minimum wage
- Are hospitalized or caring for an immediate family member who has been hospitalized
- Have a documented serious illness or incapacity
- Are impacted by a catastrophic event or hardship
- Otherwise exempt by federal law

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How can people satisfy the requirement?

This requirement may be satisfied in the following ways:

- Employment
- Work readiness and workforce training activities
- Secondary, postsecondary, or vocational education
- Substance abuse education or substance use disorder treatment
- Other work or work/community engagement activities that promote work or work readiness or advance the health purpose of the Medicaid program
- A community service or volunteer activity

How are AI/AN people affected?

It is possible that Tribal communities will be exempt as areas with a “high-poverty designation.” However, AI/ANs who live outside of their Tribal communities may not be covered under that exemption.

Has Montana applied for an AI/AN waiver?

In their proposal they indicate a desire to apply for a waiver but it does not appear that they have done so at this time.

**For additional information, please contact:
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