



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

# Work Requirement Messaging for Providers

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*July 2026*

# 2026 Work Requirement Messaging for Providers

## Newsletter Blurb

### Message #1

#### Medicaid Work Requirement - Changes Effective January 2027

Starting in **January 2027**, a new federal work requirement will require certain adults enrolled in Virginia's Medicaid Expansion to report that they are working, volunteering, participating in a work program, enrolled as a student, or have a certain income to keep their coverage. Providers should be aware that these same adults will also have their coverage reviewed every 6 months instead of every 12 months.

- This new requirement only applies to Medicaid Expansion members ages 19–64 who do not qualify for an exemption.
- It does not apply to children, pregnant or postpartum individuals, adults age 65 or older, adults with disabilities, or people enrolled in Medicare.
- Certain exemptions will apply, including for individuals with serious medical or mental health conditions, individuals with substance use disorders, parents, guardians, and caregivers of children under 14 or individuals with disabilities, and more.

Federal law is also making changes to retroactive Medicaid coverage beginning January 1, 2027. Coverage before an application date will be more limited, making it important for members to apply, renew, and respond to notices on time.

Members looking for opportunities to meet the requirements can explore statewide resources, including:

- [Virginia Works](#) (job search and training)
- [Serve Virginia](#) (volunteer and service opportunities)
- [Virginia G3](#) (education and credential programs at community colleges)

More information and updates are available at <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov>

## Step 1: Encourage Members to Keep Contact Information Current

Virginia Medicaid will mail Medicaid Expansion members a notice in September 2026 with more information about the new requirements.

Providers should encourage patients to make sure their address, phone number, and email are up to date with Virginia Medicaid, so they receive all notices about their coverage.

**CTA:** Encourage Patients to Review Their Profile

**Link:** <https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/members/update-your-information/>

## Message #2

### How Providers Can Support Medicaid Expansion Members in 2027

Beginning in **January 2027**, certain adults enrolled in Virginia's Medicaid Expansion may need to meet a new federal work requirement to keep their health coverage, unless they qualify for an exemption.

This requirement applies only to certain Medicaid Expansion members ages 19–64 and does not apply to children, pregnant or postpartum individuals, adults age 65 or older, adults with disabilities, or people enrolled in Medicare. Exemptions for people with medical needs, certain parents, guardians or caregivers, and others will apply.

Affected members will need to complete **at least 80 hours** a month of one or a combination of the following:

- Work
- Participation in a work training or education program
- Volunteer activity or community service

Or be enrolled at least half-time (as defined by the school or institution) in an educational program, including:

- High school
- A General Education Development (GED) program
- Higher education
- Career or technical education

Members may also meet the requirement if they have a monthly household income of at least \$580 per month. If work is seasonal, the average income over the prior 6 months must be at or above this amount.

## What This Means for Providers

- Expect more frequent eligibility changes and verification requests
- Patients may need help understanding eligibility requirements or exemptions
- Retroactive Medicaid coverage will become more limited beginning in 2027
- Encouraging timely renewals and updated contact information is important

Virginia Medicaid will share additional guidance and member notices before these changes begin.

**CTA:** Share Information with Patients

**Link:** <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov>

## Newsletter SMS

### Message #1

Federal work requirement for some Medicaid Expansion adults starts in 2027. Encourage patients to keep contact info updated. [[newsletter SHORT\_URL]]

### Message #2

Help patients learn about the 2027 Medicaid Expansion federal work requirement exemptions and approval activities, and more: [[newsletter SHORT\_URL]]

## Text Messages

### Message #1

VA Medicaid federal work requirement changes begin in 2027. Some members will need to show they are working, volunteering, in school, or exempt. No action is needed now.

### Message #2

Remind your patients: Certain Medicaid Expansion members will have a new federal work requirement in 2027. Encourage them to keep contact info up to date.

### Message #3

VA Medicaid will send a special notice on the federal work requirement before any changes begin in 2027. Stay updated: <https://linktr.ee/cardinalcare>

## Website Text

Starting in 2027, Virginia Medicaid will begin making changes required by a new federal law. One part of this law will introduce a new federal work requirement for adults enrolled in Medicaid Expansion.

Providers should be prepared to support patients as details become available.

No action is needed right now. Virginia Medicaid will share clear, easy-to-understand information well before anything changes so providers and members know what to expect. As updates become available, they will be shared through official channels.

Virginia Medicaid's focus is on helping eligible members keep the coverage they qualify for by providing information, resources, and advance notice of any actions that may be needed.

Providers should encourage patients to keep their mailing address, phone number, and email address up to date so they receive important coverage notices and updates. Patients should also be encouraged to learn more about approved work activities, possible exemptions, and available community resources. These steps can help eligible members avoid unnecessary disruptions in coverage and get connected to available support.

Visit the [Virginia Medicaid website](#) for more information.

## Social Media Posts

H.R. 1 Social Media Posts for Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn

**Instagram:** @CardinalCare

**Facebook:** @CardinalCare

**LinkedIn:** @Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

### Post #1

A new federal work requirement is coming in 2027 to Medicaid Expansion members. Providers can help patients stay informed.

No action is needed right now. Virginia Medicaid will share clear information ahead of time, so you and your patients know what to expect. Virginia Medicaid will provide resources and advance notice to help eligible members understand upcoming changes and maintain their coverage.



Visit the Virginia Medicaid website (<https://www.dmas.virginia.gov>) for trusted updates.

#CardinalCare

#VirginiaMedicaid

#MedicaidUpdates

#WorkRequirements

#CommunityEngagement

## Post #2

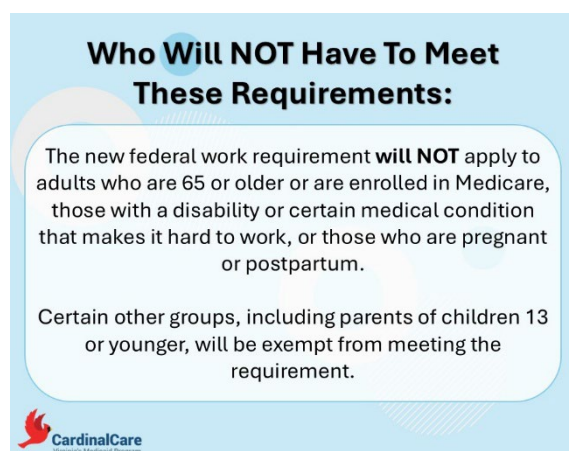
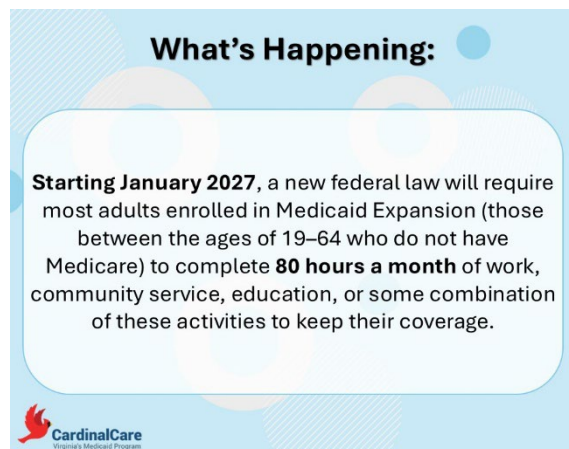
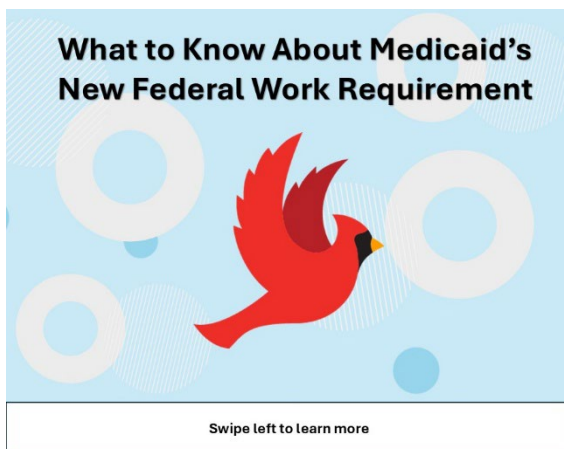
A new federal law made major changes to Medicaid, including new eligibility requirements for certain adult members starting in 2027. Virginia Medicaid is providing information and support to help eligible members understand these changes and keep the coverage they qualify for.

Learn more about each of these new requirements by swiping left. For more information about these requirements, visit the Virginia Medicaid website (<https://www.dmas.virginia.gov>).

#CardinalCare

#VirginiaMedicaid

#FederalRequirements





VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

# 6-Month Renewals Messaging for Providers

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*July 2026*

# 2026 Six-Month Renewals Messaging for Providers

## Newsletter Blurb

### Message #1

#### Changes Coming to Medicaid Expansion in 2027

Starting in **January 2027**, a new federal law requires Virginia Medicaid to review the eligibility of certain Medicaid Expansion members every 6 months instead of every 12 months. Providers should be aware that more frequent renewals may result in changes to patient eligibility status throughout the year.

#### Who Is Impacted

This change applies only to Medicaid Expansion members.

Medicaid Expansion generally covers adults who:

- Are ages 19–64
- Have income under 138% of the federal poverty level
- Are not eligible for Medicare

#### Who Is Not Impacted

Renewals will continue to happen once every 12 months for:

- Children
- Adults age 65 and older
- Adults with disabilities
- American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those in Medicaid Expansion

Pregnant members will continue to be renewed at the end of their protected 12-month postpartum coverage period.

#### When This Starts

- **New Medicaid Expansion members** who apply in January 2027 or later will receive 6-month eligibility periods
- **Current Medicaid Expansion members** move to 6-month eligibility periods starting with their first renewal in 2027

Members' renewal dates are listed on their Medicaid eligibility notice. They can also call Cover Virginia at (855) 242-8282 and ask for their renewal date.

Providers should encourage patients to keep their address, phone number, and email up to date so they receive all notices about their coverage.

**CTA:** Encourage Patients to Review Their Profile

**Link:** <https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/members/update-your-information/>

## Message #2

Starting in **January 2027**, a new federal law requires Virginia Medicaid to review the eligibility of certain Medicaid Expansion members every 6 months instead of every 12 months.

### What 6-Month Renewals Mean for Your Patients

Because renewals will happen more often for certain Medicaid Expansion members (adults who are 19-64 years old and are not enrolled in Medicare), Virginia Medicaid may reach out to members more frequently to confirm eligibility. Providers should expect increased patient questions and potential coverage changes tied to renewal cycles.

### How the Renewal Process Will Work

First, Virginia Medicaid will check available information to see if the member is still eligible for coverage. If more information is needed, members will receive a renewal form by mail.

If your patient receives a form, they must:

- Review the information for accuracy
- Update incorrect or add missing information
- Sign and return the form **within 30 days** (the due date will be on the form)

If the member does not respond by the deadline, they may be moved to limited coverage or lose coverage.

Patients can submit renewal packets:

- Online at [commonhelp.virginia.gov/](https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/)
- By calling Cover Virginia at (855) 242-8282 (TTY: (888) 221-1590)
- By returning the paper renewal packet (completed and signed) by mail

### Important Steps to Protect Coverage

Providers should reinforce that patients:

- Check mail, email, and text messages regularly
- Keep their mailing address, email, and phone number up to date

- Read and respond to all letters from Virginia Medicaid or their local Department of Social Services as soon as they are received

Members can update contact information:

- Online at [commonhelp.virginia.gov/](https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/)
- By calling Cover Virginia at (855) 242-8282 (TTY: (888) 221-1590)
- By contacting their local Department of Social Services, [Find a Local Department - Virginia Department of Social Services](#)

### **Need Help or Want to Check a Renewal Date?**

If your patient wants to check their renewal date, you can direct them to:

- Call the Cover Virginia Call Center
- Contact their local Department of Social Services

**CTA:** Learn More About Renewals

**Link:** <https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/members/renew-my-coverage/>

## **Newsletter SMS**

### **Message #1**

6-month renewals for certain Medicaid Expansion adults start in 2027. Learn who will be impacted: [[newsletter SHORT\_URL]]

### **Message #2**

Help patients understand the 2027 Medicaid Expansion 6-month renewal process. Remind them to update contact info: [[newsletter SHORT\_URL]]

## **Text Messages**

### **Message #1**

In 2027, some Medicaid Expansion members will need to renew their coverage every 6 months and comply with federal work requirements. <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov>

### **Message #2**

Renewals will happen more often for some Medicaid Expansion adults in 2027. Encourage patients to keep contact info updated. <https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/members/update-your-information/>

### Message #3

Medicaid Expansion members will have 6-month renewals in 2027. Follow VA Medicaid channels and share updates with your patients: <https://linktr.ee/cardinalcare>

### Website Text

Starting January 1, 2027, Virginia Medicaid will begin making changes required by a new federal law. One part of this law introduces a federal work requirement and 6-month eligibility reviews for some adults enrolled in Medicaid Expansion. These rules have not started yet. Providers should be prepared to support patients through more frequent renewal cycles.

No action is needed right now. Virginia Medicaid will share clear, easy-to-understand information well before anything changes so providers and members know what to expect. As updates become available, they will be shared through official channels. Virginia Medicaid will also provide information and resources to help eligible members understand any steps needed to maintain their coverage.

Providers should encourage patients to make sure their mailing address, phone number, and email address are [up to date](#) to avoid missing important notices. Keeping contact information current and responding to Virginia Medicaid notices can help eligible members avoid unnecessary interruptions in coverage.

Visit the [Virginia Medicaid website](#) for more information.

### Social Media Posts

H.R. 1 Social Media Posts for Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn

**Instagram:** @CardinalCare

**Facebook:** @CardinalCare

**LinkedIn:** @Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

## Post #1

Coming in 2027: Some Medicaid Expansion members will renew their coverage every 6 months instead of every 12 months. This change applies only to Medicaid Expansion adults ages 19–64.

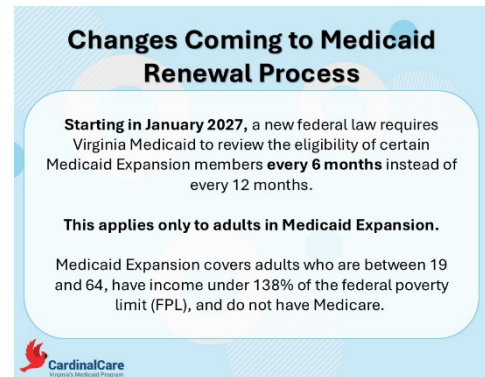
No action is needed right now. Providers can help patients prepare by reinforcing updated contact information and awareness of renewal timelines. These steps can help eligible members receive important notices and avoid unnecessary gaps in coverage.

Learn more about renewals: <https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/members/renew-my-coverage/>

#CardinalCare

#VirginiaMedicaid

#MedicaidUpdates



## Post #2

Starting January 2027, Medicaid Expansion members will have eligibility reviews every 6 months.

This does not affect children, adults 65+, people with disabilities, pregnant members, or American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Providers should encourage patients to keep contact information current. Receiving and responding to renewal notices on time can help eligible members keep the coverage they qualify for. <https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/members/update-your-information/>

#CardinalCare

#VirginiaMedicaid

#MedicaidUpdates

