

# Fact Sheet

## Medicaid Changes for Group VIII Effective Jan. 1, 2027

Beginning January 1, 2027, adults enrolled in Group VIII Medicaid — also known as the Medicaid expansion population — will be subject to new federal requirements. These include participation in Work & Community Engagement Activities, shorter six-month renewal cycles, and reduced retroactive coverage windows. These changes impact roughly 87,000 individuals in Cuyahoga County.

### What is the Medicaid Community Engagement Activity?

The Medicaid Community Engagement Activity (MCEA) is a new federal requirement that begins January 1, 2027 for certain adults enrolled in Group VIII Medicaid. It requires individuals to complete 80 hours per month of qualifying work, education, job training, or community service activities as a condition of maintaining Medicaid coverage, unless they meet an exemption.

### Who is Impacted?

The MCEA requirements will apply to recipients who receive Group VIII Medicaid Coverage (also known as MAGI Adult or Ribcoff coverage). The new rules apply only to individuals enrolled in Group VIII Medicaid, generally:

- Adults ages 19-64
- Income at or below 138% of the FPL
- Not enrolled in Medicare

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Department of Health and Human Services  
Cuyahoga Job and Family Services

**Information contained on this fact sheet is current as of 9/14/2026. Information is subject to changes.**

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#### How to Meet MCEA Work Requirements

- **Work** (paid, unpaid, in-kind, care-giving, self-employment)
- **Community Service** with a nonprofit, government agency, or religious organization. For information on local volunteer options, visit <https://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org>
- **Work Program Participation** (such as OhioMeansJobs)
- **Education** (half-time enrollment: high school, GED, college, or technical school)
- **Any combination** of activities totaling 80 hours

#### Medicaid Work Requirement Exemptions

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parents, guardians and caregivers of children under 14 or disabled individuals</li><li>• Current or former foster youth under age 26</li><li>• Medically frail Individuals</li><li>• Veterans with a disability rated as "total"</li><li>• Pregnant or postpartum (12 months)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individuals in drug or alcohol treatment</li><li>• Individuals incarcerated or recently released within 90 days</li><li>• Individuals in SNAP/TANF meeting work requirements</li><li>• Native American/Urban Indian</li></ul> |
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## Medicaid Changes to Eligibility Certification Periods

### Changes to Renewals For Group VIII

| Current Rule                                                                                             | New Rule - Jan. 1, 2027                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Currently Group VIII Medicaid recipients are required to <b>renew Medicaid benefits every 12 months.</b> | Group VIII recipients will be required to <b>renew Medicaid benefits every 6 months.</b> To successfully renew, individuals must show exemption OR compliance with MCEA for any one month since their last renewal—not all months. |

### Changes to Retroactive Eligibility Periods for all Medicaid Recipients

Medicaid allows retroactive coverage for customers who meet eligibility criteria for months prior to their application month. Changes in the new law narrow the window for retroactive Medicaid significantly:

| Current Rule                                                                          | New Rule - Jan. 1, 2027                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All Medicaid Applicants have a potential for <b>3 months of retroactive coverage.</b> | <b>Group VIII Population</b> will have potential eligibility for up to <b>one month of retroactive coverage.</b>          |
|                                                                                       | <b>All other Medicaid recipients</b> will have potential eligibility for up to <b>two months of retroactive coverage.</b> |

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## Other Important Medicaid Information What Can Customers Do?



- Is your contact information up to date? It is important for residents to keep their contact information up to date for their Medicaid case. You can update your case information, and sign up for text alerts online at <https://benefits.ohio.gov>



- Look for notices and emails you may receive from the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.



- If you believe you meet an exemption, please prepare documentation to provide to Cuyahoga Job and Family Services.

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- For more information on the MCEA Changes, visit <https://medicaid.ohio.gov/resources-for-providers/special-programs-and-initiatives/group-viii/medicaid-group-viii> or call the Medicaid Consumer Hotline at 800-324-8680 (TTY 711).

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