

IHAWP Community Engagement Requirements – Member Town Hall

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July 2, 2026

What are Community Engagement Requirements?

Starting December 1, 2026, certain members enrolled in the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) must meet monthly Community Engagement Requirements to enroll in and maintain their health coverage.

These requirements are intended to encourage employment, education, job training, volunteer service, and other forms of community involvement.

While some states refer to these as "work requirements," Iowa uses the term **Community Engagement Requirements**.

Qualifying Activities



Work

Paid employment for 80+ hours per month or earn at least \$580 per month (based on federal minimum wage)*



Job Training

Enroll in a qualifying job training or work program for 80+ hours per month



Education

Attend a college or career / technical education program at least half-time



Community Service

Volunteer work for 80+ hours per month

*Seasonal Workers: Income is averaged over six months

Combination: A mix of the activities listed above totaling 80+ hours per month

Exclusions

Some people on the IHAWP program do not have to complete community engagement activities:

- ▶ You are pregnant or had a baby in the last 12 months while on Iowa Medicaid
- ▶ You care for a child under 14 or someone with a disability
- ▶ You are or were recently in jail or prison
- ▶ You are in a drug or alcohol treatment program
- ▶ You have a disability, are medically frail, or have a serious medical condition
- ▶ You already meet work requirements for SNAP or FIP
- ▶ You are a veteran with a total disability rating
- ▶ You are an American Indian or Alaska Native

Sample Letter

If you want to see if these requirements apply to you, visit our **Self-Service Portal** and chat with Ellie, our virtual assistant.

Dept Health and Human Services Imaging Center 2
1407 Independence Ave
Waterloo, IA 50704

Notice of Community Engagement Requirements

FIRST LAST
MAILING
ADD APT #
CITY, IA ZIP CODE

Notice Date 08/01/2026 Case Number SB0000000000

Why am I getting this letter?

You are getting this letter because you are on the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) Medicaid program¹. Because of a federal law, Medicaid eligibility rules are changing. Most IHAWP members must follow new community engagement requirements. Failure to meet requirements could result in loss of Medicaid or Marketplace coverage.

After December 1, 2026, you may need to prove that you are working, going to school, or helping in your community for at least two months since your last Medicaid review.

Who does not have to meet Community Engagement Requirements?

Some people do not have to complete community engagement activities² and are considered excluded. You are excluded if:

- You are pregnant or had a baby in the last 12 months while on Iowa Medicaid
- You care for a child under 14 or someone with a disability
- You are or were recently in jail or prison
- You are in a drug or alcohol treatment program
- You have a disability, are medically frail, or have a serious medical condition
- You already meet work requirements for SNAP or FIP
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For more information about Community Engagement Requirements, please visit the Iowa HHS website: hhs.iowa.gov/medicaid/plans-programs/iowa-health-wellness-plan/ihawp-community-engagement-requirements

470-0346 (06/26)

Important Community Engagement Requirements (CER) Dates

**July through
August 2026**

- ▶ A CMS outreach campaign that includes text messages and emails will be conducted.
- ▶ HHS mailing outreach letter to Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) members.

December 1, 2026

- ▶ Community engagement requirements effective in Iowa.
- ▶ Individuals who apply on or after December 1, 2026, must meet CER to be eligible for IHAWP.

February 2027

First renewal cohort for active Iowa members who must meet CER to be eligible at renewal.

If you want to see if this applies to you, visit our [Self-Service Portal](#) and chat with Ellie, our virtual assistant.

Other Medicaid Eligibility Updates

6-month renewals:

Iowa will transition IHAWP members at the next scheduled renewal.

The first renewal cohort to transition will be individuals with a renewal due in March 2027.

New Retroactive Period Length Policy:

Two months for pregnant women, children, and residents of a nursing facility beginning January 1, 2027.

Role of Managed Care Plans (MCPs)

States **MAY** utilize MCPs to:

- Provide or enhance certain activities that leverage the plans relationships with enrollees.
- Conduct outreach and education.
- Share data to inform states' determinations (medically frail status).
- Refer enrollees to work programs.

States **CANNOT** delegate MCPs to:

- Conduct tracking or collect information on work, community service or educational activities.
- Issue formal notifications to members regarding noncompliance.

Outreach Activities

The Iowa informational website URL will be: [medicaid.gov/renew-info/IA](https://www.medicaid.gov/renew-info/IA).

Element	Timeline
Informational Website Launch	7/01/2026
Email Send #1	7/06/2026 – 7/20/2026
SMS Send #1	7/27/2026 – 7/31/2026
Email Send #2	8/03/2026 – 8/07/2026
SMS Send #2	8/10/2026 – 8/14/2026
Email Send #3	8/10/2026 – 8/14/2026
SMS Send #3	8/24/2026 – 8/28/2026
Email Send #4	8/24/2026 – 8/28/2026

Qualified Non-Citizen Definition Change

- ▶ Beginning **October 1, 2026**, the definition of who is considered a qualified non-citizen for Medicaid is changing.

U.S. Nationals, LPRs, certain Cuban/Haitian Entrants, and COFA migrants **will continue to meet citizenship requirements** for Medicaid as they do today.

Refugees, asylees, parolees, and a few others **will be subject to additional requirements** before being considered eligible for Medicaid (example: a five-year bar will need to be met).

Where to Find Information

- ▶ [Community Engagement Website](#) (updated regularly)
 - FAQs
 - Outreach Letter
 - One-pager
- ▶ Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)
- ▶ Community Toolkits
- ▶ [Self-Service Portal](#)

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The sky is filled with scattered clouds. The foreground and middle ground show a mix of green and brown fields, a dirt road, and several farm buildings, including barns and silos. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

Questions?

CEoutreach@hhs.iowa.gov



Health and
Human Services