

Eligibility Updates

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Health and
Human Services

IHAWP Eligibility Changes



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).



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**.



Renewals for IHAWP Members

- ▶ **6-month renewals:** Members enrolled in IHAWP will receive a 6-month renewal period.
- ▶ **AI/AN exception:** Alaska Native/American Indian members will continue to receive a 12-month renewal period.
- ▶ **Renewals:** Applies to renewals initiated **January 1, 2027, and later.**
 - In Iowa, this means **March 2027 renewals and later.**
- ▶ **Applications:** Applies to applications received **January 1, 2027, and later.**



Retro Changes – Effective January 1, 2027

- ▶ **Retroactive coverage:** Reduced from **3 months to 2 months** for the limited population:
 - Children
 - Pregnant women
 - People in a facility



Member Resources

[IHAWP Community Engagement Requirements](#)

- FAQs and answers to common questions
- List of exemptions
- Other member resources

[HHS Self-Service Portal](#)

- Check Medicaid eligibility
- Access member information and services

[Refugee Health Services](#)

- [Refugee Health Resources](#)
- Information and resources related to refugee health services

Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

- Notify members about community engagement requirements
- Provide information and resources to members

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

Questions



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