

What you need to know about work requirements and 6-month renewals

**HFS**
Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services

A new federal law (HR 1) is affecting both SNAP and Medicaid.

Illinois is required to implement these changes. SNAP changes began in May 2026, with Medicaid in January 2027. You may know SNAP as food stamps or your Link card, and Medicaid as All Kids, Aetna, BlueCross BlueShield, CountyCare, Meridian, or Molina.

KEY CHANGES AND THEIR EFFECTIVE DATES

What's Changing?	If you're on SNAP	If you're on Medicaid
New work requirements for certain adults. Complete 80 hours in a single month of work, school, job training and/or volunteering, or earn a minimum amount of income	After Feb 1, 2026 <i>For ABAWDs (ages 18-64, physically and mentally able to work, no dependent under 14 in home)</i>	After January 1, 2027 <i>For Affordable Care Act (ACA) Adults (ages 19-64, no Medicare, no dependent under 18 in home)</i>
Renewals every 6 months to keep benefits	After October 1, 2025 <i>For non-elderly/disabled</i>	After January 1, 2027 <i>For ACA Adults</i>

WHAT TO DO NOW

1. **Update your contact information** (address, phone number, email) **at abe.illinois.gov & click "Manage My Case"**. Or visit your FCRC office for assistance. Don't risk missing a notice or losing coverage (updating contact information does not mean your benefits are changing)
2. **Watch your mail.** We will contact you directly before any change affects coverage. Don't ignore mail from the state and respond immediately to notices.
3. **Stay updated and report household changes.** Get help early if you need to report a change in income, immigration status, or household members. Call 1-877-805-5312 for Medicaid support, or 1-800-843-6154 for SNAP.
4. **Keep records** of your work or activity hours, and/or your exemption documentation. For Medicaid only, self-attestation of meeting work requirements accepted in 2027.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

SNAP

Work Requirements Screener:
aberp.illinois.gov/screener/ABAWD

SNAP Federal Impact Center:
snapfederalimpact.illinois.gov

MEDICAID

HFS Federal Resource Changes:
medicaid.illinois.gov

Medicaid Customer Guide
<https://hfs.illinois.gov/medicalclients.html>

NEW WORK REQUIREMENTS TO KEEP YOUR BENEFITS

For Both Programs

What's required (monthly for SNAP & once every six months for Medicaid): Complete **80 hours** of work, school, job training, and/or volunteering, **or** earn \$935/month for SNAP or have income of \$580/month for Medicaid

Note: Children <18, seniors 65+, and people with disabilities are **NOT** affected

Being an able-bodied adult without dependents counts as meeting Medicaid work requirements.

If you're on SNAP

Effective after **Feb 1, 2026**

- **Who:** Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents ages 18-64, physically and mentally able to work, no dependents under 14 in home

If you're on MEDICAID

Effective after **January 1, 2027**

- **Who:** "ACA Adults": ages **19–64**, no Medicare, no child under 18 in home

WORK REQUIREMENTS EXEMPTIONS

For Both Programs

If you are pregnant, are enrolled in a drug or alcohol treatment program, or if you are American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), you are exempt from meeting work requirements.

If you're on SNAP

- Main caregiver for an incapacitated or disabled person
- Caregiver of a child under 6
- Mentally or physically unable to work
- Currently receiving, or have applied for unemployment benefits
- Are an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer
- Experiencing chronic homelessness

If you're on MEDICAID

- Have Medicare Part A or B
- Parent or caregiver of child <14 (<18 if on same Medicaid case)
- Parent or caregiver of a person with disability
- Former foster youth ages 19–26
- Postpartum
- Person with special medical needs (serious health condition or disability)
- Veteran with disability rating from VA
- In jail or prison now or were in past 3 mos
- Experiencing a short-term hardship (e.g., travel for medical care, a hospital stay, a natural disaster)
- Completing work requirements for SNAP or TANF

REDETERMINATIONS EVERY SIX MONTHS

For Both Programs

The frequency of renewals has changed to every 6 months for some households. Make sure IDHS, HFS have your current address, so you don't miss a renewal notice and risk losing coverage

If you're on SNAP

Effective after **October 1, 2025**

- **Who:** All households not qualified as in Elderly and/or Disabled Simplified Redetermination Project

If you're on MEDICAID

Effective after **January 1, 2027**

- **Who:** Generally, "ACA Adults": ages 19–64, no Medicare, no child under 18 in home