

H.R. 1 OVERVIEW

H.R.1 is a piece of federal legislation that will deeply impact Medicaid. The legislation specifically focuses on who is able to access healthcare based on a set of new eligibility requirements. According to the [Washington Health Care Authority](#), the Medicaid program (which Washington calls Apple Health) currently provides free or low-cost health coverage for almost 2 million people across the state, including children, adults, pregnant individuals, those 65 years of age or older, and people with disabilities.

Starting in October 2026, certain groups of people currently covered under Medicaid will be determined “ineligible” for care and will need to prove they meet new requirements to continue to access their health care plan. Notices will be sent to individuals at risk of losing care with instructions on how to prove eligibility under new federal requirements. In October, the first people at risk of losing care will be **lawfully present non-citizens**.

WHO IS AT RISK: OCTOBER 2026

The first wave of outreach to reconfirm eligibility requirements will focus on those with the following immigration statuses:

- Asylees
- Conditional entrants
- Refugees
- Individuals for whom deportation or removal has been withheld
- Victims of trafficking
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioners
- Parolees

Children, pregnant individuals, and individuals within 12 months postpartum will remain eligible for Apple Health regardless of immigration status if all other eligibility requirements are met.

H.R.1: COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

The October 1 date is the first in a series of “drop-off” eligibility cliffs in the coming months, each focused on a different group of at-risk individuals who will need to supply the federal government with additional documentation to remain eligible for Medicaid. This toolkit will focus specifically on communicating the impacts of H.R.1 to those who may currently be at risk of losing coverage as a member of one of the groups listed above.

A fact sheet assembled by the Washington Health Care Authority on lawfully present non-citizens who may be at risk of losing coverage can be found [here](#).

SAMPLE H.R. 1 SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

Messages should be customized based on your organization’s scope of services and should reflect the language and brand standards of your organization.

Please, replace links with culturally specific resources when appropriate:

- Starting October 1, changes to Medicaid eligibility requirements are putting immigrants at risk. Learn more about which statuses may be impacted here: hca.wa.gov/hr1-changes
- As of October 1, 2026, the federal government has changed Apple Health eligibility guidelines for non-citizens. Refugees, asylum seekers, victims of domestic violence or human trafficking and parolees may need to work with case managers to re-establish their eligibility for Medicaid and access care resources.
- Are you prepared for changes to Apple Health? Starting on October 1, Washingtonians with non-citizen statuses may be at risk of losing coverage. We can help. Determine whether you’ll need to re-enroll: hca.wa.gov/hr1-changes

H.R. 1 SAMPLE EMAIL LANGUAGE

Language about the rolling H.R.1 drop-off dates which may prompt community members to re-apply for Medicaid can be included in community emails and notices ahead of the October 1, 2026 deadline. This is an opportunity to direct community members to check their health care coverage status, and notify case workers if there is a concern about remaining eligible for care.

Customizable sample language is below:

This fall, a piece of federal legislation called H.R.1 will begin to go into effect. Although it is not formally law until next year, H.R.1 will deeply impact who can access Medicaid. The legislation outlines a set of new eligibility requirements, many of which are more rigorous than current requirements.

Starting in October 2026, certain groups of people currently covered under Medicaid will be determined “ineligible” for care and will need to prove they meet new requirements to continue to access their health care plan. While the new requirements will not go into effect until January 1, 2027, it is important to be prepared if you need to re-enroll.

*Notices will be sent to those at risk of losing care with instructions on how to prove eligibility under new federal requirements. In October, the first people at risk of losing care will be **lawfully present non-citizens**. This means people with the following statuses may fall under scrutiny:*

- Asylees
- Conditional entrants
- Refugees
- Individuals for whom deportation or removal has been withheld
- Victims of trafficking
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioners
- Parolees

Children, pregnant individuals, and individuals within 12 months postpartum will remain eligible for Apple Health regardless of immigration status if all other eligibility requirements are met.

Do you fall into one of these groups? If so, contact [email@organization.org] to connect with a case manager who can help you maintain Apple Health coverage in 2027.