

MEDICAID CHANGES



H.R. 1, or the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” was signed into law on July 4, 2025. H.R. 1 includes significant changes to several federal programs, including Medicaid.

What is changing?

For the first time in Medicaid’s history, H.R. 1 establishes work requirements for adults ages 19–64 enrolled through **Medicaid expansion**. To maintain coverage, individuals must complete and document at minimum 80 hours of qualifying activities per month, be determined exempt, or lose coverage.

700,000

working age Ohioans are enrolled in Medicaid expansion – **6% of the state’s population.**

What are the qualifying activities?

Employment

- Full-time, part-time or temporary paid work.
- In-kind work such as working in exchange for housing, meals or utilities.
- Self-employment and unpaid experience such as unpaid internships.

Community service

- Must be unpaid and through a structured program run by a nonprofit or public organization that can verify an individual's hours

An official government job training program

- Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) training programs
- SNAP employment trainings
- Veterans' employment programs run by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or Department of Veterans Affairs
- State approved programs

Education

- Enrolled at least part-time in a qualifying program at a college, university, community college, trade school, vocational school or career and technical education program
- Enrolled in a state-approved GED program.

Meet the income requirement

- Individuals whose monthly earnings are at least equal to 80 hours at the federal minimum wage (\$7.25/hour, or about \$580/month) may satisfy the requirement without tracking monthly hours. For reference, Ohio's minimum wage is \$11.00/hour in 2026.

Combine Activities

- Individuals may combine employment, education, community service, and approved work programs to reach a total of 80 hours.

Medical Frailty Exemption

Important: Under the Interim Final Rule (IFR), having one of the conditions listed below does not automatically qualify a person for the medical frailty exemption. CMS states that an individual must have a condition that significantly impairs their ability to comply with the work and community engagement requirement.

The IFR notes that some individuals with serious or complex medical conditions may still be expected to participate in qualifying activities.

5 exemptions under medical frailty

- 1 Blind or disabled under Social Security rules
- 2 Substance use disorder with fewer than 5 years of stable recovery
- 3 Disabling mental health condition
- 4 Individuals with a physical, intellectual, or developmental disability that significantly impairs their ability to perform one or more [Activities of Daily Living \(ADLs\)](#)
- 5 Serious or complex medical condition
 - Cancer
 - End stage renal disease
 - HIV/AIDS
 - ALS/Parkinson's Disease
 - Multiple sclerosis
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Cystic fibrosis

Timeline

June 1, 2026

CMS released the IFR

July 31, 2026

Deadline to provide comments on the IFR

July 31, 2026

The IFR takes effect

January 1, 2027

State must implement these Medicaid work requirements unless granted an extension from the federal government

What can you do now?

- ✓ Ensure your contact information is up to date with Medicaid (e.g., mailing address, phone number, email)
- ✓ If you think you qualify for an exemption, begin securing copies of important medical and eligibility documents now
- ✓ Watch for notices from the Ohio Department of Medicaid and respond timely.



SNAP CHANGES



H.R. 1, or the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” is legislation signed into law on July 4th, 2025. H.R. 1 includes significant changes to several federal programs, including SNAP.

What is changing?

Changes to the SNAP program include state payment for benefits, non-citizen eligibility, and work requirements:

- NEW** Ends 100% federal funding for SNAP benefits by requiring states to pay a share of benefits for residents
- NEW** States and counties will pay for 75% of the administrative costs for SNAP, which is an increase from 50%
- NEW** Prevents future increases in SNAP benefit amounts based on updated nutrition standards
- NEW** Requires households with children 14 and older to comply with strict work requirements
 - These requirements previously only applied to non-disabled adults without dependents
- NEW** Ended SNAP eligibility for legally present non-citizens, such as refugees and victims of domestic violence
- NEW** Ended federal funding for nutrition education programs (such as [SNAP-Ed](#)) for participants

Since May 2025, SNAP participation has declined by

129,000 Ohioans

Who is at risk of losing SNAP:

- People between the ages of 55–64 with no disability
- Unhoused individuals, Veterans, or people 24 or younger who aged out of foster care
- Parents of children ages 14 and older

In the U.S. 5 million people (1 in 8 SNAP participants) could lose food assistance due to changes in work requirements.

More than 4.5 million people have lost SNAP benefits.

SNAP Eligibility

- Household monthly income in Ohio must be at or below 200% of FPL
- The net household income after deductions must be at or below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Work Requirements

NEW SNAP has expanded work requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) to age 64

- Initially, these work requirements were only from ages 18–54

NEW Individuals with dependent children 14 or older would also be subject to work requirements

- Previously, families with children under the age of 18 were exempt

NEW Individuals subject to SNAP work requirements must be in a training program or working for 20 hours a week, or else they are limited to receive SNAP for 3 months out of every 3 years

Exemptions

- Physically or mentally unfit for employment
- Caring for an incapacitated child under 6
- Over the age of 60
- Student enrolled at least half-time
- Caring for child under age 6

More information on work requirements and exemptions can be found at [Cuyahoga County Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Timeline

July 4, 2025

H.R. 1 becomes law

October 3, 2025

FNS released implementation guidance on work requirements and waivers

January 25, 2026

Benefit changes for citizenship eligibility applied

February 1, 2026

Statewide policy around SNAP work requirements implemented

October 1, 2026

States/counties will begin paying 75% of administrative costs for SNAP

October 1, 2027

States will be required to pay for a portion of SNAP benefits based on its **error rate**

