

Idaho Medicaid Updates

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Mahailla Emele, DHW Tribal Affairs Coordinator

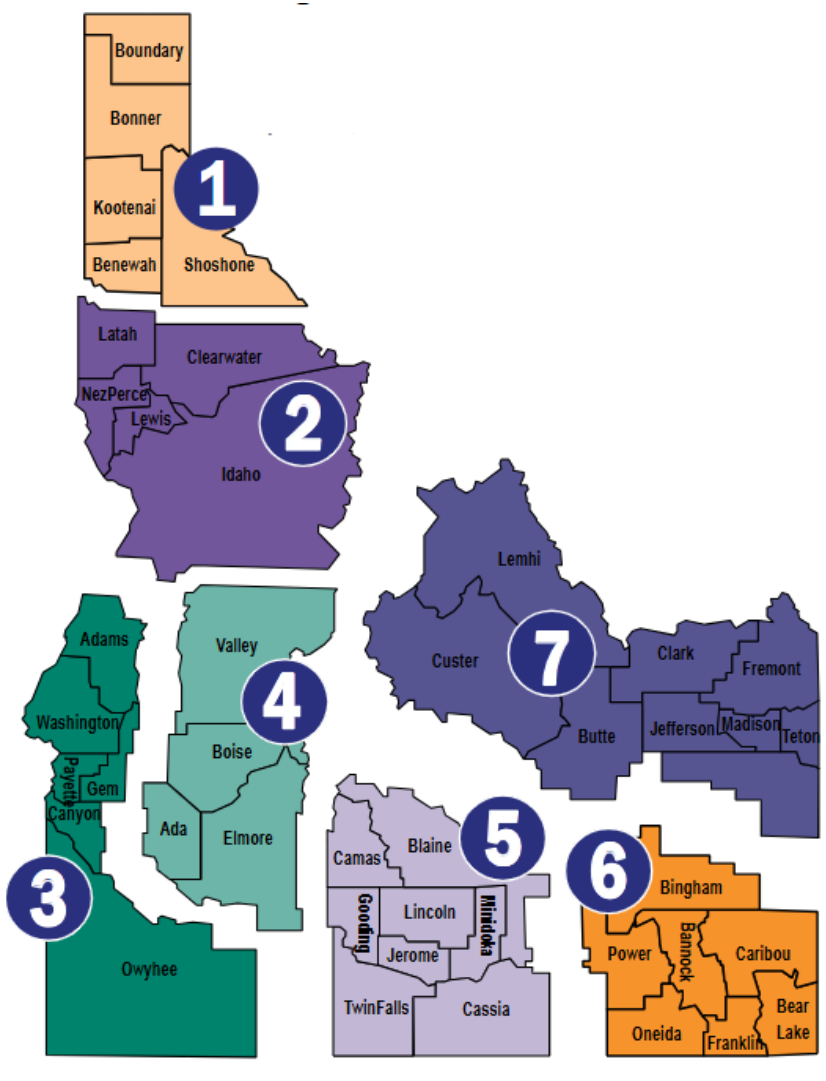
Note: The information contained in this document is based on guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and other federal entities. The information in this document is subject to change based on updated guidance from CMS, changes to law or regulation, or other circumstances.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

- Agency dedicated to strengthening the health, safety, and independence of all Idahoans
- 10 divisions providing services directly to local communities and organizations
  - Behavioral Health
  - Medicaid
  - Public Health
  - Self-Reliance
- Serving an average of 350,000 Idahoans annually across 7 regions of the state

Regions and Tribes of Idaho



Region 1: Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Region 2: Nez Perce Tribe

Region 3: Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

Region 6: Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Idaho Medicaid

- Three health care plans:
  - Basic Plan provides health, prevention, and wellness benefits
    - Includes Medicaid expansion
  - Enhanced Plan provides basic benefits, plus developmental disability services, children's service coordination, and long-term care supports
    - Includes home and community-based services
  - Coordinated plans for people dually enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid
- Two basic eligibility types:
  - Income-based eligibility
  - Aged/disabled coverage

Division of Self-Reliance

- The Division of Self-Reliance manages assistance and support services in four major programs:
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP)
  - Medicaid eligibility determination, including Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD)
  - Cash assistance through Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI) and Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD)
- Idalink
  - One place to apply for and manage benefits
  - Update contact information, report changes, and set communication preferences

Changes to Medicaid Expansion in 2027

Understanding Medicaid Expansion

Idaho voters approved Medicaid Expansion in the 2018 general election, extending coverage to low-income adults. The program was implemented in January 2020 and now provides health insurance to tens of thousands of Idahoans.

You may qualify for Medicaid Expansion if:

- You are aged **19 through 64 years old**
- You meet income limits up to **138% of the federal poverty level**
- You are a **U.S. citizen** or have a **certain qualified noncitizen status**
- You **are an Idaho resident**
- You are **not disabled**
- You are **not pregnant**
- You are **not eligible for Medicare** or another Medicaid program

Changes to Medicaid Expansion in 2027

What are the changes beginning Jan. 1, 2027

- H.R.1 (the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) was approved by the U.S. Congress and President Trump in 2025 and directs states to implement new requirements for Medicaid Expansion participants.
- Summary of changes
    - Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, adults applying for or already enrolled in Medicaid through expansion must either meet a circumstance that excludes them from work-requirement obligations, qualify for an exemption, or demonstrate compliance by completing three consecutive months of qualifying activities such as employment, volunteer service, or education.
    - Re-evaluations will occur every six months.
    - Retroactive coverage will change to one month for Medicaid Expansion applicants.
    - Renewal dates can differ for people in the same household, and compliance is based on each person, not the household.

Changes to Medicaid Expansion in 2027

American Indian/Alaska Natives are exempt from these requirements

Circumstances that Qualify for an Exclusion	
You are currently **pregnant.**	You have a **disabling mental health condition.**
You are receiving **postpartum Medicaid coverage.**	You are **blind.**
You are a **caregiver** of a child age 13 or younger.	You are **19-25 and aged out of foster care.**
You are a **caregiver** of a person with a disability.	You are an **American Indian or Alaska Native.**
You have a **physical, mental, or developmental disability** that makes it hard to do daily activities.	You are **eligible to receive Indian Health Services.**
You have a **serious or complex health condition** that requires regular medical care and limits or prevents your ability to work.	You get **SNAP (food benefits) or TANF (cash assistance)** and are already required to meet work requirements for those programs.
You have a **substance use disorder** or are in a drug or alcohol treatment program.	You are a **veteran with a total, or 100%, disability rating.**
	You are currently **incarcerated.**

Exclusions and Exemptions for Work Requirements

American Indian/Alaska Natives are exempt from these requirements

Circumstances that Qualify for an Exemption
You were **released from incarceration** within the last three months.
Temporary Hardships
• You were **hospitalized** or **in a nursing home** (or a similar facility) or received outpatient care for a serious issue.
• You or a dependent **traveled outside of the community for an extended period of time** to receive medical care for a serious medical condition during a qualifying month.
• The state of Idaho reserves the right to request an exemption for those **living in a county with high local unemployment.**
• The state of Idaho reserves the right to request an exemption for those **living in a county with a federal emergency or disaster declaration.**

Eligibility Determinations

Using automation to determine eligibility

- DHW uses automated eligibility processes to complete reviews for new applications and re-evaluations whenever possible. Automation reduces the need for staff follow-up and customer paperwork.
- To support these automated reviews, DHW relies on verified data from several reliable interfaces to confirm eligibility for Medicaid.
- DHW will also use claims information to help identify whether an applicant may meet criteria for the medical frailty exclusion.

Work Requirements

- If a Medicaid Expansion applicant or participant is not excluded or exempt from work requirements, they must demonstrate they are meeting the rules by completing at least one qualifying activity each month or a combination of the activities listed below.

80 hours of qualifying activities, which may include:

- Working
- Participating in an approved work program
- Completing approved volunteer or community service
- Participating in an approved job training program
- Enrollment in an education program less than half time
- A combination of the above activities

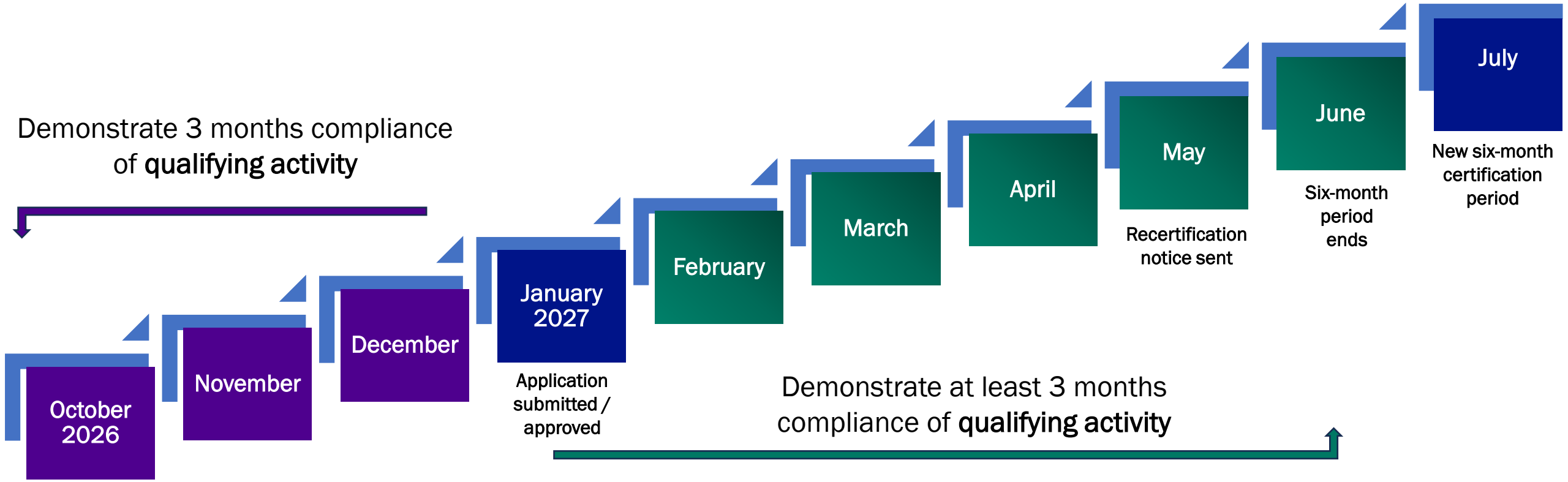
Income Earnings

- Household income of at least $580/month

Enrollment in an education program

- Enrolled at least half time in high school, a GED program, technical training, or college

New Applicant & Re-evaluation Timeline



Changes to Medicaid Expansion in 2027

Tribal H.R.1 Timeline		
Section	Effective Date	AI/AN Exemption
71119: Work/Community Engagement Requirements	Jan. 1, 2027	Yes
71109: Eligibility Changes for Immigrants	Oct. 1, 2026	Yes*
71107: Six-Month Redeterminations	Jan. 1, 2027	Yes
71112: Retroactive Coverage Limits	Jan. 1, 2027	No
Section 71118: Budget Neutrality for 1115 Waivers	Jan. 1, 2027	No
71120: Cost-Sharing for Expansion Adults	Jan. 1, 2027	Yes

***Tribal members born outside of the United States must have a lawful permanent resident status to remain eligible**

Reporting an AI/AN Exemption

- At application
  - Mark that the applicant is American Indian/Alaska Native on the Medicaid application and/or screener questions
- Other ways to report
  - Call, mail, or visit a DHW office to report Tribal enrollment or affiliation
    - Phone Number: 855-336-2185 (toll-free)
  - Work with a Tribal facility to get the information to DHW
    - Tribal facilities can submit a letter to DHW stating that applicants or beneficiaries receive services from their facility
- Tribal status is self-attested and can be reported at any time

Medicaid Community Outreach

July 2026

- Notices mailed to all current Medicaid Expansion participants about the upcoming changes
- Multiple text messages and emails sent to Medicaid Expansion participants
- DHW Medicaid Expansion webpage launched
- DHW news release
- Medicaid.gov webpage launched about upcoming eligibility changes in Idaho
- Social media campaign on Facebook, X, and LinkedIn

August 2026

- Virtual Community Town Hall
- Presentation at quarterly meeting in Fort Hall





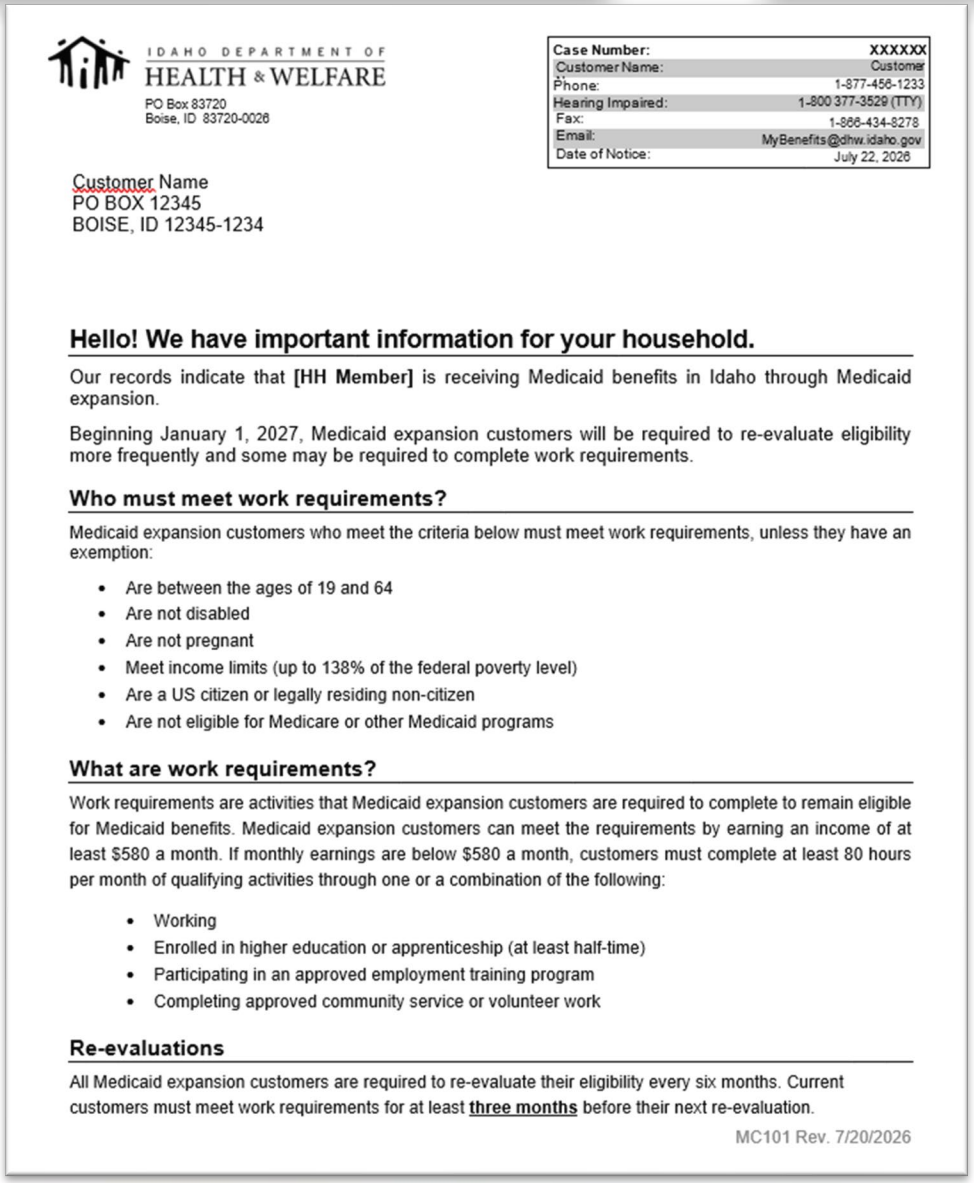
Medicaid Community Outreach

- Tribal enrollment event, August 2026
  - Hosted in partnership with Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in Fort Hall
  - DHW Self-Reliance staff were on site for application and eligibility assistance
  - Tribe offered incentives to encourage participation
  - Members were able to have their eligibility assessed and applications processed on the same day
  - Hugely successful event

Medicaid Community Outreach

Planned and ongoing

- All communications have information about AI/AN exclusions
- Notices mailed to new Medicaid Expansion participants about the upcoming changes
- Ongoing virtual town halls
- Engagement with community-based organizations
- Partner toolkit
- Work requirements screening tool
- Ongoing outreach to participants
- Flyers
- Educational tools (FAQs, etc.)
- Social media campaign
- Tribal enrollment events



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0026

Case Number:	XXXXXX
Customer Name:	Customer
Phone:	1-877-456-1233
Hearing Impaired:	1-800 377-3529 (TTY)
Fax:	1-866-434-8278
Email:	MyBenefits@dhw.idaho.gov
Date of Notice:	July 22, 2026

Customer Name
PO BOX 12345
BOISE, ID 12345-1234

Hello! We have important information for your household.

Our records indicate that **[HH Member]** is receiving Medicaid benefits in Idaho through Medicaid expansion.

Beginning January 1, 2027, Medicaid expansion customers will be required to re-evaluate eligibility more frequently and some may be required to complete work requirements.

Who must meet work requirements?

Medicaid expansion customers who meet the criteria below must meet work requirements, unless they have an exemption:

- Are between the ages of 19 and 64
- Are not disabled
- Are not pregnant
- Meet income limits (up to 138% of the federal poverty level)
- Are a US citizen or legally residing non-citizen
- Are not eligible for Medicare or other Medicaid programs

What are work requirements?

Work requirements are activities that Medicaid expansion customers are required to complete to remain eligible for Medicaid benefits. Medicaid expansion customers can meet the requirements by earning an income of at least $580 a month. If monthly earnings are below $580 a month, customers must complete at least 80 hours per month of qualifying activities through one or a combination of the following:

- Working
- Enrolled in higher education or apprenticeship (at least half-time)
- Participating in an approved employment training program
- Completing approved community service or volunteer work

Re-evaluations

All Medicaid expansion customers are required to re-evaluate their eligibility every six months. Current customers must meet work requirements for at least **three months** before their next re-evaluation.

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