South Dakota Department of Social Services

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Website: dss.sd.gov
Contact: dss.sd.gov/findyourlocaloffice

Community Engagement or "Work Requirements"

Some adults must complete community engagement (also called "work requirement") activities to be eligible for Medicaid. Learn if you're excluded or how you can meet the requirement based on federal rules. ***Community engagement only applies to adults ages 19 - 64 enrolled in Medicaid Expansion***.

If you're not excluded, you must meet community engagement rules during your community engagement "review period" to be eligible. For a new applicant, that's the one (1) month before you apply. For an ongoing recipient, it's at least one (1) month since your last renewal.

Community engagement rules start January 1, 2027, for new applicants. For ongoing recipients, rules are effective at your first renewal starting with renewals initiated after January 1, 2027. The first group of recipients affected are those with certification dates ending March 31, 2027.

Community Engagement Exclusions

You don't have to complete community engagement activities if you are an excluded individual (or were an excluded individual during your "review period"). You may be an excluded individual if you are:

- ✓ An American Indian or Alaska Native
- ✓ A person who "aged out" of foster care at age 18 in any state and are under age 26
- ✓ A person who provides regular care to a child aged 13 or younger, **or** to a person of any age with a disability. You don't need to be related to the person or live in the same home.
- ✓ A person subject to work requirements for TANF or SNAP
- ✓ A person currently pregnant or receiving postpartum Medicaid
- ✓ A person who is incarcerated now or in the 3 months prior to your "review period"
- ✓ A veteran with a total disability rating (permanent or temporary)
- ✓ A person in a drug or alcohol treatment program
- ✓ A person who is disabled or medically frail (see below)

You may be considered medically frail if you have a health need such as blindness, disability, substance use disorder, serious mental health disorder, serious or complex medical conditions, or a physical, intellectual, or developmental disability that limits your activities of daily living.

Ways to Meet the Community Engagement Requirement

If you aren't excluded, you must complete *one of the following activities or a combination of them* to be eligible. If we can't verify your activities electronically, we will request paper documentation or a signed statement from you.

- ✓ **You're enrolled in an educational program at least half-time**, such as an institution of higher education, a career or technical education program, high school, or a high school equivalency program (such as for your GED).
- ✓ **You work 80 or more hours per month**. This includes paid work, self-employment, unpaid work, and work in exchange for goods or services ("in-kind" work). If you're a seasonal employee, the last 6 months of work are averaged.
- ✓ **You complete 80 or more hours a month of community service**, either voluntarily or because of a court order. Community service must be for a structured program that benefits the community and is not partisan.
- ✓ **You participate for 80 or more hours a month in a work program** under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Trade Act of 1974, a program of employment and training by a State or the Department of Veterans Affairs, or a workforce partnership program. Supervised job search hours or activities may only count for up to 40 of the 80 required hours.

You also meet the requirement if your household income is at least $580. Your household is you plus any persons who are considered to be in your Medicaid household. Income must be considered "countable" under program rules to count toward the $580 threshold.

How to Provide Information or Reapply

You can submit information about activities or exclusions by phone, mail, in person, fax, email, and the BEES Customer Portal. You may also use any of these methods to reapply at any time if you have been denied or lost eligibility.

Find local office information at https://dss.sd.gov/findyourlocaloffice/. Sign up for or log into the BEES Customer Portal at https://eaportal.sd.gov/. Applications are also located at any local office, online at https://dss.sd.gov/formsandpubs/. You may contact any local office and request they send you an application by mail.

Insurance Affordability Programs

If you're ineligible for Medicaid, you may still be able to get health insurance, and help paying for it, through the Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information on the Health Insurance Marketplace, please call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325) or visit www.Healthcare.gov.

Individuals who deny or lose eligibility for Medicaid due to noncompliance or failure to respond to notices of noncompliance regarding the community engagement requirement are not eligible for advance payments of the premium tax credit (APTC) or the premium tax credit (PTC) used to pay for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Employment Assistance

The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation provides support, education, and training to individuals seeking employment.

Search for jobs online using **SDWORKS** at southdakotaworks.org. Learn about Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) training and education programs and find one-on-one support at a Job Service office at dlr.sd.gov/localoffices.

Community Service and Community Resource Assistance

The Helpline Center's Volunteer Connections program is the critical link between individuals looking to volunteer and the nonprofit agencies that need volunteers. Locate volunteer opportunities in the Sioux Empire, Yankton, Brookings, and Black Hills communities at https://volunteer.helplinecenter.org/.

The Helpline Center can connect you to resources and support in your community through the 211 Helpline. Call 211, text your zip code to 898211, or visit https://www.helplinecenter.org/ to learn more.