

Changes to Medicaid Requirements: Spreading the Word and Supporting Recipients



October 2026

South Dakota Department of Social Services

Agenda

- Medicaid Changes Timeline
- Citizenship
- Retroactive Coverage
- 6-Month Renewals
- Community Engagement
- Customer Support & Online Resources

Medicaid Changes Timeline

1

Starting July 2025

DSS and Partners actively preparing systems, communications, staff training, and documentation materials.

2

By September 1, 2026

Community Engagement information letter sent to all Adult Expansion recipients.

3

By October 1, 2026

Changes for qualified noncitizens.

4

Starting January 1, 2027

Community Engagement requirements apply to NEW applicants for Adult Expansion.

Currently enrolled Adult Expansion recipients are reviewed for community engagement criteria at their next regularly scheduled renewal.

Citizenship & Immigration

Current Eligibility Rules

U.S. Citizens and U.S. Nationals

Qualified Noncitizens

Changes Effective October 1, 2026

U.S. Citizens and U.S. Nationals

Lawful Permanent Residents, Cuban and Haitian Entrants, and Compact of Free Association (COFA) Migrants

5-Year Bar & 40 QQs

5-Year Bar

Certain immigration statuses are subject to the 5-year bar. After 10/01/2026:

- Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) are still subject to it.
- CHEs and COFA migrants are still exempt from it.

40 QQ State Option

SD has opted to require LPRs to also have 40 Qualifying Quarters (QQs) of work through SSA in their Medicaid State Plan.

People can have their own QQs or be credited with 40 QQs from a spouse (for QQs earned during marriage) or from a parent (QQs must have been earned while applicant was <18).

LPRs are **exempt from the 40 QQ** requirement if their **status on entry was exempt from the 5-year bar**. This is true even if their status on entry is no longer an FFP-eligible status. Exempt statuses upon entry include refugees, CHEs, COFA migrants, asylees, victims of human trafficking, Amerasian immigrants, and some other less common statuses.

What coverage is not affected October 1, 2026?

Unborn Children of Ineligible Noncitizens

Coverage is restricted to pregnancy-related services.

Emergency Medicaid for Ineligible Noncitizens

Coverage is restricted to the treatment of the emergency medical conditions.

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

This is a wholly federally funded program that provides up to 8 months of coverage to certain newly arrived noncitizens who don't qualify for Medicaid.

Retroactive Coverage

Current Eligibility Rules

Coverage can begin up to three (3) months prior to the application date.

Changes Effective January 1, 2027

Coverage can begin up to one (1) month prior to the application date for Adult Expansion applicants and two (2) months for all other applicants.

90 Day Reconsideration

1. Between Regular Renewals

If an individual is closed for failure to respond between regular renewals – **a change of circumstance** – but returns the information within 90 calendar days of closure, we can reinstate without a new application.

2. At Renewal

If an individual is closed for *failure to submit a renewal form or necessary information related to the renewal* but subsequently turns in that information (form or requested information) within 90 calendar days of closure, we must treat the renewal form as a **new application**.

The new application is then subject to retroactive rules in place at the time we receive the form or the requested information.

> Example: Biff's certification period ends 12/31/2026 and he is closed for failure to renew. He turns in his renewal form on 03/15/2027. Biff's application date is 03/15/2027. Biff is only eligible for the Adult Group. He can only be retroactively approved back to 02/01/2027.

Renewal Changes

Current Eligibility Rules

Renewals occur once every 12 months for all coverage groups.

Changes Effective January 1, 2027

Renewals occur once every 6 months for Adult Expansion, unless Native American, tribally enrolled, or eligible for Indian Health Services.

Renewals remain once every 12 months for all other coverage groups.

How will the renewal changes go into effect?

Effective Date of Change: January 1, 2027

New Applicants

New applicants approved for Adult Expansion on or after January 1, 2027, will have 6-month renewals **immediately**.

Ongoing Beneficiaries

Adult Expansion beneficiaries enrolled on January 1, 2027, will transition to 6-month renewals at their **first regularly scheduled renewal starting March 2027.**

Community Engagement ("Work Requirements")

WHO is impacted?

Some adults ages 19 through 64 with income up to 138% of the federal poverty level.

WHEN?

New Applicants – January 1, 2027

Ongoing Adult Expansion Beneficiaries –
First regularly scheduled renewal starting March 2027

Which Adult Expansion beneficiaries are excluded? (1 of 2)

- People who under age 26, who were in state or tribal care when they turned 18, and were enrolled in Medicaid at that time
- People who are Native American, enrolled in a tribe, or eligible for Indian Health Services
- People who provide regular care to a child age 13 or younger **or** a person with a disability of any age (individuals may meet this exclusion even if they aren't related to or don't live with the child or person with a disability)
- Veterans with total disability ratings, whether temporary or permanent
- People who are medically frail or have special medical needs (like a disability or serious or complex medical condition) that impair their ability to complete community engagement activities

Which Adult Expansion beneficiaries are excluded? (2 of 2)

- People who are already required to comply with SNAP or TANF work requirements
- People who are in drug addiction or alcohol treatment or rehabilitation
- People who are current or recent inmates of public institutions
- People who are pregnant, people who are eligible for postpartum Medicaid

Exceptions
People who were under the age of 19, entitled or enrolled in Medicare, were in certain other coverage groups, or were previously excluded during their "community engagement review period"

What if someone is not excluded?

Qualifying Activities (one or more)

For How Long?

New Applicants – 1 Month Prior to Application Date

Beneficiaries – 1 Month Since Last Renewal

$580 Countable Household Income

Half-Time Educational Enrollment

80 Hours of Paid, Unpaid, or In-Kind Work

80 Hours of Community Service

80 Hours of Work Program Participation

Top Customer Questions

How do I know if I'm an Adult Expansion beneficiary?

Notices from DSS, the BEES Customer Portal starting January 1, 2027, or contact with your local office.

How will I know if DSS needs something from me?

DSS will send you a Request for Information at application or renewal with 30 days to respond.

What if I don't have documents?

DSS only asks for documents if information isn't in the file or electronically available.

If you don't have documents, we'll send a form to fill out.

Top Provider and Stakeholder Questions

Will providers be asked to document medical frailty and how is it defined?

DSS will host a webinar on medical frailty on November 4, 2026.

How can we help?

Encourage enrollees to keep their contact information with DSS up to date and read all notices from DSS.

What if someone loses coverage?

Individuals can reapply at any time.



Customer Support & Online Resources

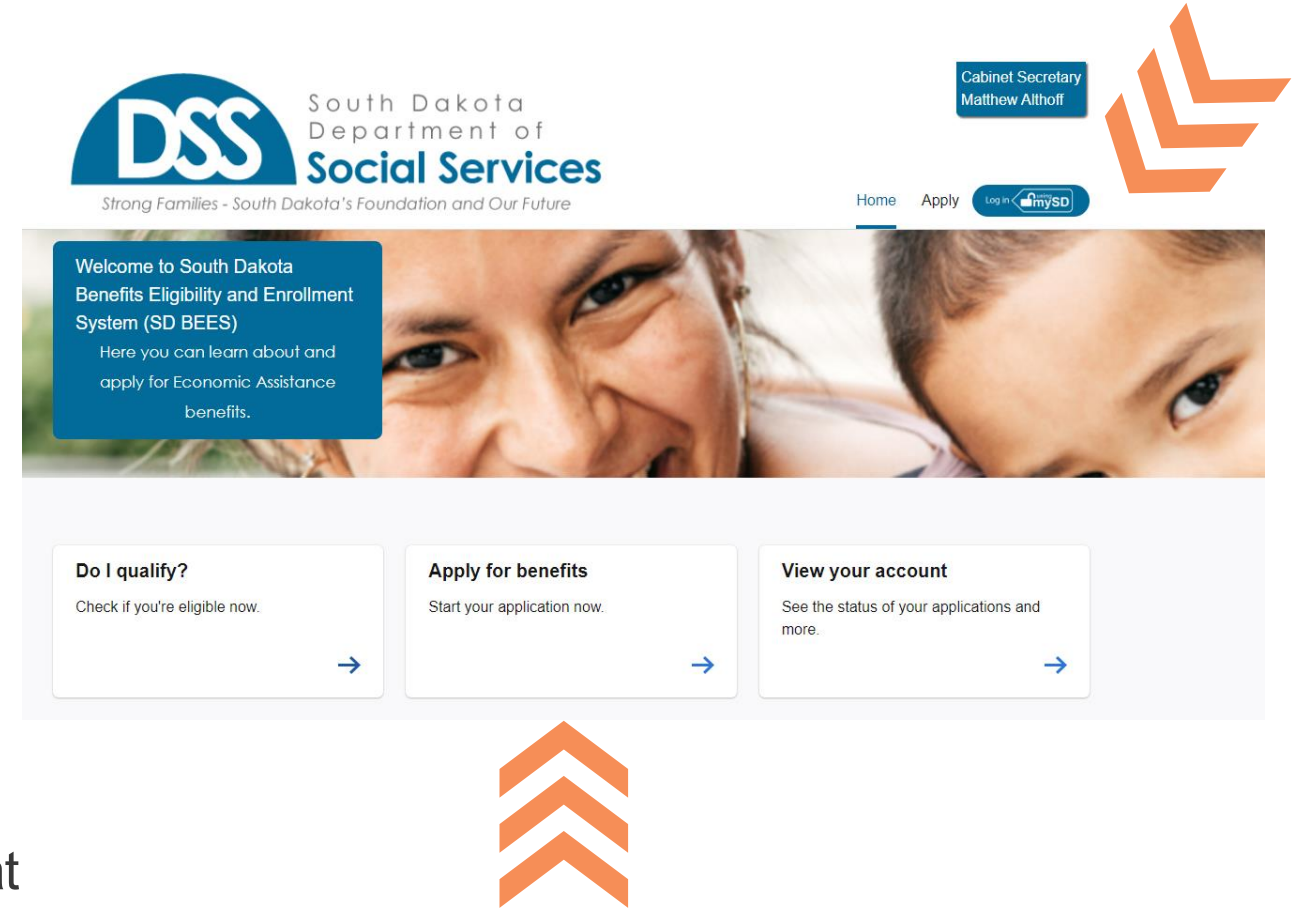
Benefits Eligibility & Enrollment System (BEES)

The **BEES Customer Portal** helps South Dakotans:

- Apply for Medicaid/CHIP, SNAP, and/or Child Care Assistance (CCA),
- Report changes,
- Complete renewals,
- Check coverage/application status,
- View notices,
- Request appeals, and
- Find local office contact information.

The site is optimized to work on a desktop computer as well as any other mobile device (e.g., scales to laptop, cell phone, or tablet).

Sign up or log into the BEES Customer Portal at https://eaportal.sd.gov/.



Customer Support

How Medicaid Enrollees Can Learn More and Stay Informed

- *Make sure your preferred mailing address and phone number are up to date with DSS.*
- Read all notices and mail from DSS
- Contact your local office if you have questions. Find your local office information at: https://dss.sd.gov/findyourlocaloffice/
- Frequently visit the South Dakota Medicaid Changes Coming Soon website at https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/HR1.aspx
- Access the Community Engagement Fact Sheet in English and Spanish at https://dss.sd.gov/formsandpubs/
- Sign up to receive email and/or text alert notifications when we send you mail in the SD BEES Customer Portal. Sign up or login here: https://eaportal.sd.gov/
- Visit the Medicaid Recipient page to sign up for the Recipient Listserv and learn more about recipient communication: https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/recipients/
- Follow DSS on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaDSS/
- Follow DSS on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/southdakotadss/

Provider & Stakeholder Resources

What Providers and Stakeholders Can Do Now

- *Encourage enrollees to keep their preferred mailing address and phone number up to date with DSS and to read all notices and mail from DSS.*
- Encourage enrollees to sign up for email and/or text alert notifications when we send them mail in the SD BEES Customer Portal. Sign up or login here: https://eaportal.sd.gov/
- Frequently visit the South Dakota Medicaid Changes Coming Soon website at https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/HR1.aspx
  - *Take advantage of the Partner Tip Sheet to Help Someone Renew Medicaid & CHIP Coverage and the Social Media Toolkit available now on our site*
- Access the Community Engagement Fact Sheet in English and Spanish at https://dss.sd.gov/formsandpubs/
- Visit the Medical Tribal Consultation page and sign up for the Tribal Consultation Listserv at: https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/generalinfo/tribalconsultation.aspx
- Visit the Medicaid provider communication page and sign up for the Provider Listserv at: https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/providers/communication.aspx
- Follow DSS on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaDSS/
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Thank You!

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