Stay Covered

Navigating H.R.1 Federal Work Requirements

Changes are coming to QUEST (Medicaid) health coverage in our community. Under the federal H.R.1 law signed by 2026 legislation, new work and volunteer requirements will take effect starting January 1, 2027, for many adults between the ages of 19 and 64 who have QUEST (Medicaid) coverage.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Starting January 1, 2027:
New Rules: Individuals in the impacted group will need to meet new requirements to keep their health coverage.
More Frequent Checks: Renewal checks will now occur every 6 months instead of once a year for individuals in the impacted group.

WHO DOES THIS AFFECT?

Impacted Group: Most adults between the ages of 19 to 64.
Exemptions: Some people will not need to meet these new requirements because they are exempt. This includes children (0-18), older adults (65+), and others.

For a full list of exemptions, visit Med-QUEST's website at http://medquest.hawaii.gov/hr1.

HOW TO MEET THE NEW REQUIREMENTS

Income: Receive household income of $580 or more.
OR
Time: At least 80 hours of qualifying activities, which may include a combination of work, volunteer, certain caregiving, and school credit hours.
OR
School: Enrolled at least half-time in an educational program.

WHEN YOU MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS:

New Applicants: The month before you apply.
Renewing Members: At least 1 of the 6 months before you renew.

THE RENEWAL PROCESS

Notification: Med-QUEST will check your eligibility first and will send a notice in the mail, letting you know if they need more information.

QUEST (Medicaid) Members: Keep Your Information Up-to-Date

If your address or phone number is outdated, you might miss important notifications from Med-QUEST or your health plan. You can quickly update your details or register a new profile online in under five minutes by visiting the official Hawaii Med-QUEST portal at: mybenefits.hawaii.gov

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