



Thursday Connections with SUD at DHS

September 17, 2026

Brought to you by Substance Use Disorder Unit in the Behavioral Health Administration.

Agenda

Time	Topic
3:00	Logistics & Introductions Recovery Month
3:05	HR 1 Overview & Work Requirements
3:30	Traditional Healing 1115 Waiver Demonstration Submission
3:45	Status Update: BHF Eligibility Determination Program
4:00	Close

Meeting Logistics

1. Thanks for **keeping yourself muted**
2. Feel free to keep your **camera off**; it helps save bandwidth for the group
3. Submit **questions in the chat**
4. We commit to answering to as many of your questions as we can via responses in the chat and/or verbally
5. After the meeting, we'll share a recap of questions and answers on the Thursday Connections with SUD webpage, so nothing gets missed

Wishing you all a meaningful Recovery Month!

September is National & State Recovery Month.

A national and state observance honoring people in recovery and the work of prevention, treatment and recovery support services.

Recovery Month: Still to Come

- The Office of Addiction and Recovery is hosting a **webinar on Recovery in Minnesota and the MN Recovery Corps**
 - [September](#) 23rd; 12:00-1:00 P.M. | [Registration](#) is open
- **Minnesota Recovery Month: Recovery Road Trip**: In Sept., MARCO is inviting Minnesotans to take part in the 2026 Recovery Road Trip; 12 stops hosted by Recovery Community Organizations across the state. **Recovery Is Everywhere Across Minnesota!**
- SAMHSA is hosting [recovery-focused webinars](#) every Tuesday in September.

Noteworthy Highlights during Recovery Month: State Progress on Substance Use Response

- Minnesota is now the first state employer in the country to earn **national Recovery Friendly Workplace Certification**.
- DHS released **the Interagency State Substance Use Plan Report** in early 2026, bringing together years of work across state agencies to address substance use and addiction.
- The state continues **to invest in certified recovery residences** that are eligible for reimbursement.
- The **Rural Health Transformation Program** is expanding access to evidence-based treatments, like medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), in rural parts of Minnesota.
- Through the state's **naloxone portal**, about 460,000 doses have been distributed to more than 1,000 organizations across Minnesota.



Overview: HR 1 (P.L. 119-21) Medical Assistance Eligibility Provisions

Mary Gilbertson | Health Care Legislative Budget Director

Leigh Grauman | HCA Research Scientist

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has continued to issue updated guidance related to the HR 1 changes. We are analyzing this guidance, and as a result, the information in this presentation is subject to change.

Overview of Changes

2026 Minnesota State Legislative Session: What Passed to Conform with Public Law 119-21

Work or Community Engagement Requirements	Six-Month MA Renewals
Effective: January 1, 2027 MA adult expansion enrollees who are not American Indian/Alaska Native and who do not meet another exception or exclusion, will be subject to work or community engagement requirements.	Effective: January 1, 2027 Eligibility determinations shift to every six months for MA adult expansion enrollees, excluding American Indian/Alaska Native individuals. This population will not be subject to periodic data matching.

2026 Minnesota State Legislative Session: What Passed to Conform with Public Law 119-21

Noncitizen Adult MA Eligibility Changes

Effective: October 1, 2026

MA eligibility for adults age 21 or older who are not pregnant is limited to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and noncitizens with the following immigration statuses: Lawful Permanent Resident, Cuban/Haitian Entrant, or COFA Migrant Status.

Reduced Retroactive MA Eligibility

State funds will be used to maintain three months retroactive MA eligibility through December 31, 2027.

Starting January 1, 2028, retroactive MA eligibility will be limited to one month before the date of application for the adult expansion population, and two months for all other Medicaid eligibility groups.

Effective Dates: Public Law 119-21 MA Eligibility Changes

- **October 1, 2026:** Reduced funding for Emergency Medical Assistance for adult expansion population, Noncitizen adult MA eligibility changes
- **January 1, 2027:** Work requirements, Six-month renewals, State funds backfill extra months of retroactive MA eligibility
- **January 1, 2028:** Reduced retroactive MA eligibility changes
- **October 1, 2028:** Reinstate cost sharing
- **October 1, 2029:** Medicaid payment errors changes

Minnesota's MA Adult Expansion Group

In Minnesota, the adult expansion population refers to adult Medical Assistance enrollees who do not have dependent children, are not pregnant, and are not receiving MA based on a disability.

MA Coverage Category	Adult Expansion Group?
Adult	Yes
Pregnant	No
Child born to a person enrolled in Medicaid	No
Infant	No
Child, age 2-18	No
Parent/Caretaker	No
Former Foster Care Youth	No
Age 65 or older	No
Blind	No
Disability	No

Work Requirements

Work Requirements for Adults Without Children

Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, MN must establish work requirements for adults without dependent children as a condition of their Medicaid eligibility.

- Affected adults must demonstrate compliance with work or community engagement requirements or meet an exemption prior to being determined eligible for MA.
- States must attempt to verify compliance at application and at renewal using ex parte data before requesting information or proof from the person.

Work Requirements Lookback Period

Lookback Period

The timeframe when an applicant or enrollee must have met work requirements

Application: Applicants need to meet an exception or complete a qualifying activity **in the month prior to application.**

Renewal: Enrollees need to meet an exception or complete a qualifying activity **in one of the six months between renewals.**

Interim Final Rule for Work Requirements Initial Takeaways



Narrows the **medical frailty exclusion** by requiring that qualifying conditions “significantly impair” an individual’s ability to work.



Details important policy and operational implications for **applicable individuals** vs. **specified excluded individuals**.



Provides clarifications on each of the **qualifying activities**.



Allows states to accept **self-attestation** (i.e., an individual’s auditable self-declaration) in 2027 but limits self-attestation in 2028 and beyond.

Specified Excluded Individuals

- American Indian/Alaska Natives
- Family caretaker of a disabled individual
- Veterans with a disability rated as total
- Medically frail
- Meeting the work requirements for TANF
- Member of a household that receives SNAP and are not exempt from SNAP work requirements
- People receiving Alcohol Use Disorder or Substance Use Disorder treatment
- Incarcerated individuals

Other Exemptions

- Qualified for an exemption that ended within the lookback period
- Transitioned from another MA eligibility basis
- Was released from jail or prison within the past three months

Short-Term Hardship Events

- Received care in a hospital, nursing facility, psychiatric hospital, facility for people with intellectual disabilities
- Traveled away from their community to get medical care for themselves or a dependent
- Lived in a county where the president has declared a natural disaster
- Lived in a county where the unemployment rate is at or above 8% or 1.5 times the national unemployment rate

Qualifying Activities

- Earning at least 80 times the federal hourly minimum wage (\$580/month)
- Seasonal workers with average monthly earnings over the previous six months that is at least 80 times the federal hourly minimum wage (\$580/month)
- Working or participating in other qualifying activities:
 - 80 hours per month of work or community service or work program
 - At least half-time enrollment in an education program
 - Any combination of these activities totaling 80 hours

Failure to Meet Work Requirements

- Adults without children who fail to meet work requirements or an exemption will be denied or lose MA benefits
- People who lose MA because they have not met work requirements or an exemption will also be ineligible for MinnesotaCare and financially assisted qualified health plans (QHP)

Work Requirements for Adults Without Children Applicability Timeline

- **January 1, 2027:** Applicants must meet work requirements to qualify for MA for adults without children
- **March 2027:** Enrollees in MAXIS on an adult without children basis with a renewal month of March 2027 or later will be subject to work requirements
- **April 2027:** Enrollees in METS on an adult without children basis with a renewal month of April 2027 or later will be subject to work requirements

Enrollee Outreach

One-Time Informational Mailers

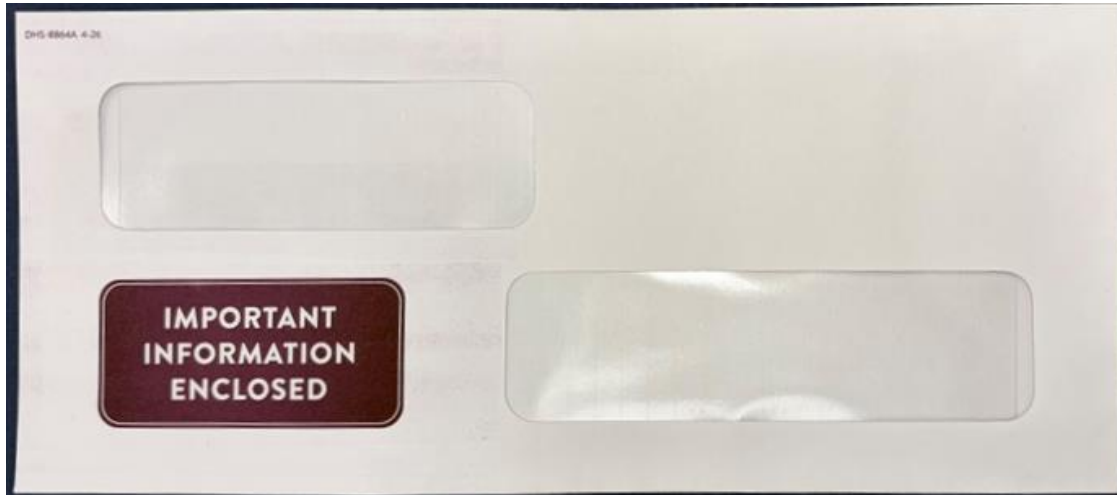
- One-time informational mailers were sent from DHS to enrollees who:
 - Will be impacted by the noncitizen eligibility change, and
 - Will be impacted by work requirements and six-month renewals.
- **Goal:** The purpose of the mailers was to alert enrollees to upcoming federal law changes
- **Timing:** Mailers were sent to impacted noncitizen enrollees on June 15 and adult expansion enrollees on June 22, 2026.



These communications are NOT closure or renewal notices.

One-Time Informational Mailer Envelopes

Noncitizen MA Eligibility Changes Mailer



Adult Expansion Mailer



One-Time Informational Text Messages

- One-time follow up text messages were sent from DHS to the same enrollees who received mailers.
- **Goal:** The purpose of the text was to follow up with enrollees about informational notices mailed last month and provide a link to a DHS website with information about upcoming federal law changes.
- **Timing:** Text messages were sent to impacted noncitizen enrollees on July 14, and adult expansion enrollees on July 21 and 28, 2026.
- **Phone number text messages were sent from:** 28343



These communications are NOT closure or renewal notices.

Translations for Communications

Noncitizen Eligibility Changes Mailer

- Approximately 5,500 were sent.
- Translations posted online:
 - Spanish
 - Hmong
 - Somali
 - Russian
 - Karen
 - Dari
 - Pashto

Adult Expansion Mailer

- Approximately 200,000 mailers were sent.
- Translations posted online:
 - Spanish
 - Hmong
 - Somali
 - Russian
 - Vietnamese

Renewal Lookup Tool

Updates to the Renewal Lookup Tool

Purpose: Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, federal law requires some people to meet [new work requirements](#) to keep their Medical Assistance. They will need to satisfy the requirements by:

- Meeting an exemption, or
- Completing a qualifying activity in a month since their last Medical Assistance renewal.

Action point: We are asking enrollees for help preparing for their 2027 renewal by using the [lookup tool](#) to report a qualifying exemption or a qualifying activity (such as volunteering).

Important: This functionality has been extended to Sept. 30, 2026.



Sharing this information will not affect current Medical Assistance coverage, but may make the 2027 renewal process easier.

Renewal Lookup Tool Materials

8:30

Enrollment Information

Showing information for: **Name**

Case Number: **#**

Member Number: **#**

Work or Community Engagement

Work or Community Engagement 

Attestation

 Information is needed to help us get ready for your renewal in 2027.

Renewal Information

Unless otherwise stated, the information below reflects information in our systems as of **June 5, 2026**.

Renewal Date, Mailing Address, and Servicing Agency 

Watch for your renewal paperwork in the mail in June, mnrenewallookup.com.

Instructional video
available at
vimeo.com/1204300762

Flyer



Get ready for your 2027 Medical Assistance renewal

Federal changes starting in 2027 require that some adults with Medical Assistance may need to meet new work reporting and community engagement requirements to get or keep coverage. Some people may qualify for an exemption.

This change applies to adults who:

- Are age 21 to 64
- Do not live with their children under age 19
- Are not pregnant
- Do not have Medical Assistance based on disability

You are not affected if you:

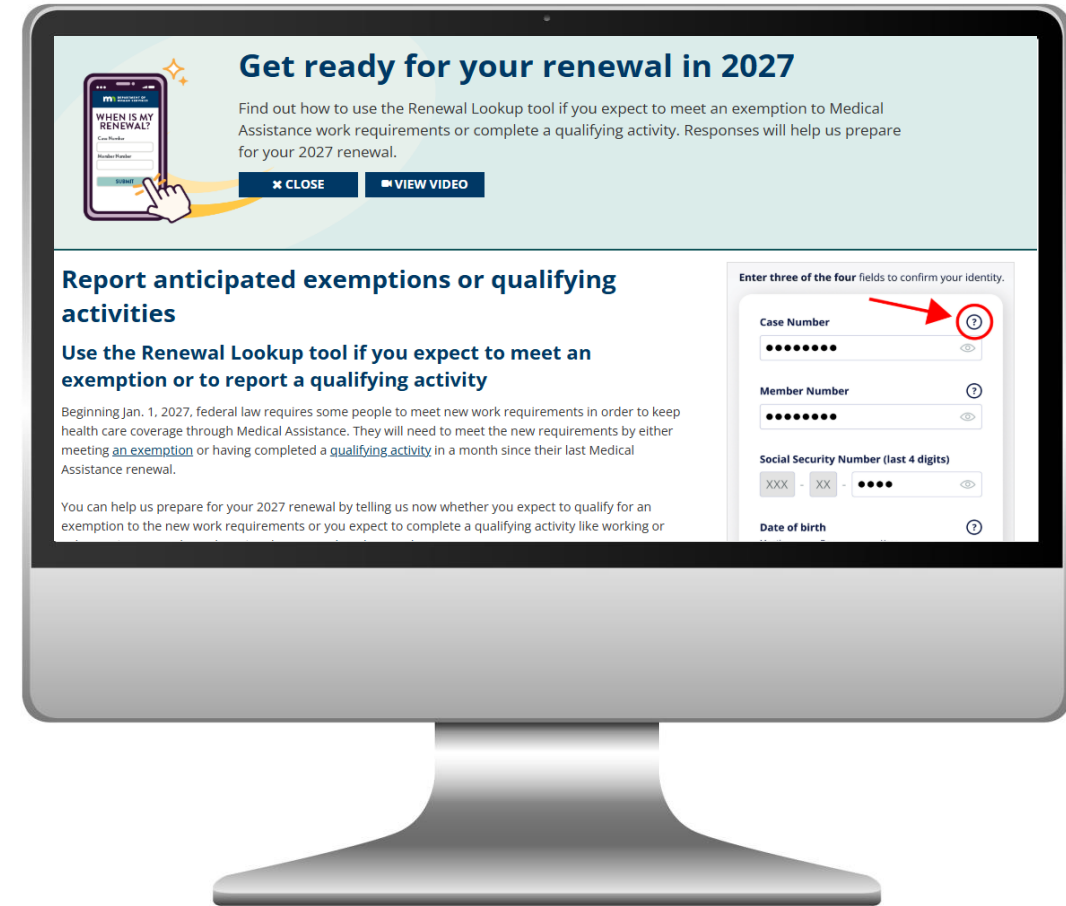
- Get Medical Assistance coverage based on a disability
- Are a parent living with your children under age 19
- Are 65 or older
- Are 20 or younger
- Are pregnant

WHEN IS MY RENEWAL?

Case Number

Member Number

SUBMIT



Get ready for your renewal in 2027

Find out how to use the Renewal Lookup tool if you expect to meet an exemption to Medical Assistance work requirements or complete a qualifying activity. Responses will help us prepare for your 2027 renewal.

Report anticipated exemptions or qualifying activities

Use the Renewal Lookup tool if you expect to meet an exemption or to report a qualifying activity

Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, federal law requires some people to meet new work requirements in order to keep health care coverage through Medical Assistance. They will need to meet the new requirements by either meeting an [exemption](#) or having completed a [qualifying activity](#) in a month since their last Medical Assistance renewal.

You can help us prepare for your 2027 renewal by telling us now whether you expect to qualify for an exemption to the new work requirements or you expect to complete a qualifying activity like working or

Enter three of the four fields to confirm your identity.

Case Number 

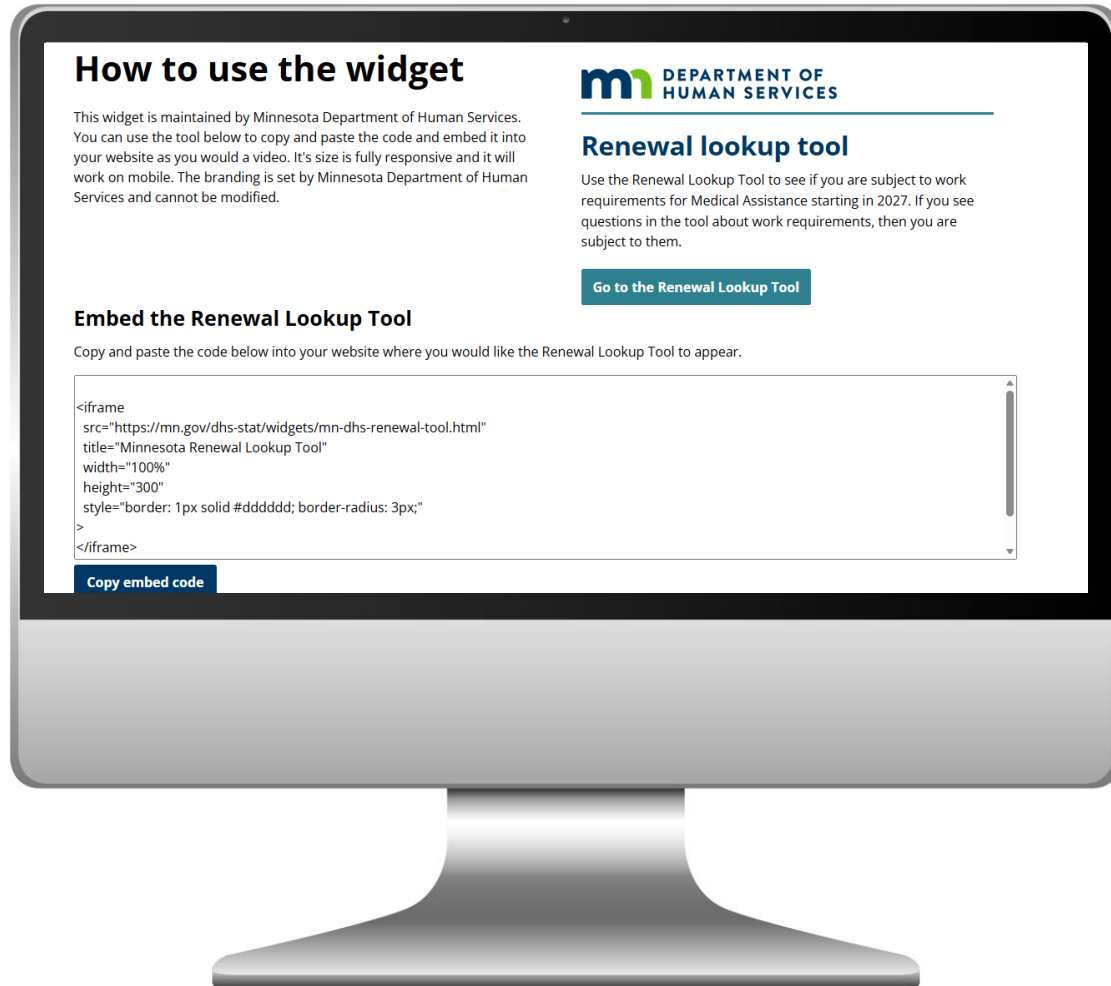
Member Number 

Social Security Number (last 4 digits)

Date of birth 

All materials available at mn.gov/dhs/federalchanges/tools-for-partners

Renewal Lookup Tool Website Widget



You can now embed the Renewal Lookup Tool directly onto a webpage on your site.

Find the instructions and embed code here:

mn.gov/dhs/digital-showcase

All of this information is also available in the [partner toolkit](#).

American Indian and Alaska Native Exemption Website



mn.gov/dhs/americanindian

Same Medical Assistance Coverage, Fewer Hoops

Medicaid work requirements and more frequent renewals start soon, but they don't apply to American Indian & Alaska Native people.

Skip the extra paperwork and keep the same coverage.

Claim your exemption now — fewer hoops, less hassle.

mn.gov/dhs/AmericanIndian



Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP)
Present this card every time you go for medical care

Member Number	12345678
First Name/MI	Last Name
Last Name/MI	Last Name
RxBin/RxGr/RxPCN	026787/MN/MEDICAID/530862024
Rx Phone	844-575-7887

More information on back of card.



Get Ready for Your 2027 Medical Assistance

New federal work requirements and six-month renewals start on January 1, 2027, for some people.



If you are an American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) to these new requirements, you must re-apply for Medicaid every six months.

Make sure to report your AI/AN status so you receive your exemption.

If you currently have Medical Assistance:

- Use the [Renewal Lookup Tool](#) to tell us you are American Indian or Alaska Native.
- The tool will only ask you about work or community engagement exemptions if:
 - You are age 21-64,
 - You are not a parent or caretaker of children under age 19 living with you,
 - You are not pregnant, and
 - You do not receive Medical Assistance because of a disability.

If you apply for Medical Assistance:

- Be sure to answer "Yes" to the question on your online or paper application: "Are you or is anyone in your family American Indian or Alaska Native?"
- Check the box for American Indian or Alaska Native if you are asked about work or community engagement exemptions.



Scan the QR code or visit mn.gov/dhs/americanindian/renewallookup for info and instructions on using the tool.

mn DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Digital slide for waiting room screens

Handout



Traditional Healing 1115 Waiver Demonstration Submission

Mino Bimaadiziwin-Wičhózani

Healing as Health Care

- Root cause of illness
 - For many American Indians, spiritual and cultural dislocation is a root cause of illness
- Meaningful choices in care
 - This waiver affirms the right to meaningful choice in care by covering practices rooted in relationship with land, spirit and community
- Traditional Healing
 - Recognizing Indigenous-centered, holistic health practices as an MA benefit
 - As our Director of TUIR states, "Traditional healing is not an alternative to health care; it is health care."

The Journey So Far...

- Pathways to Racial Equity Report
- Legislative Authorization
 - MN Legislature authorizes creation and submission of 1115 demonstration waiver
 - Listening Sessions/Tribal Workgroup
- Listening sessions held with Tribes and workgroup formed from designated representatives
- Public Notice
 - Hearings and informational sessions held
- Waiver Submission
 - Waiver application transmitted to CMS August 14, 2026

What We Are Covering

- **Practices**

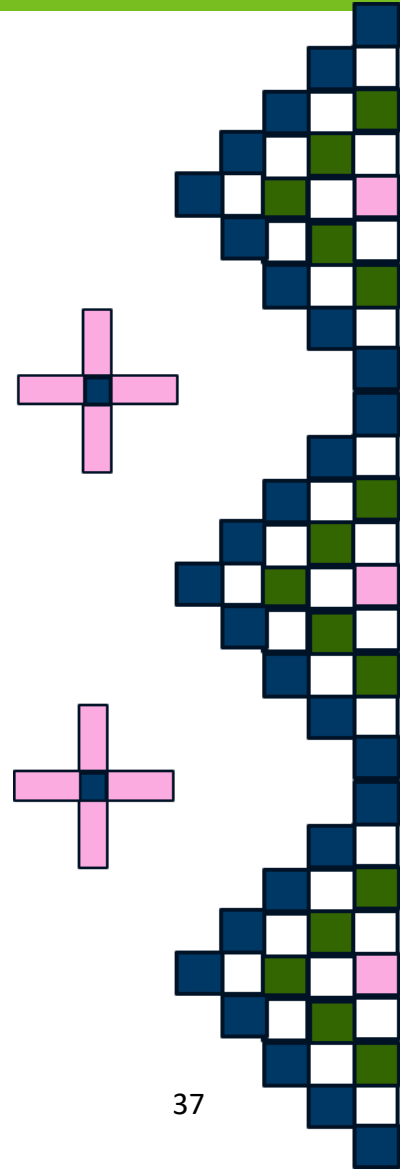
- Culturally relevant practices provided through IHS, 638 and UIO facilities
- Includes Sweat Lodge, Talking Circles and Smudging

- **Settings**

- IHS/638 Facilities
- Indian Health Board

- **Eligibility**

- American Indian Medicaid Enrollees that meet the definition of IHS eligibility
- Enrolled in a federally recognized Tribe or a direct descendent of an enrolled member of a federally recognized Tribe; spouses of enrolled members of Federally recognized Tribes eligible during pregnancy



1. Policy Foundation
2. Tribal Guidance
3. Evaluation
4. Go-Live

A Cross Departmental Effort

- **Your expertise is needed**
 - Implementing this first of its kind benefit in MN requires a dedicated team spanning multiple specialties
- **Program Integrity**
 - Developing the oversight that respects cultural confidentiality
- **Systems and Finance**
 - Activating claims codes and managing All-Inclusive Rate (AIR) payments
- **Legal and Federal Regulations**
 - Managing special terms and conditions set by CMS and engaging in ongoing monitoring
- **Communications**
 - Outreach to enrollees and Tribal partners to ensure awareness



Pidámayaye/Miigwech!

American.Indian.Team.DHS@state.mn.us



Status Update: Behavioral Health Fund (BHF) Eligibility

Current Processing Times

Process	Timeline
Application Determination (decision) and Applicant/Secondary Contact Notification	4 business days after submission
Notification to Agency of Financial Responsibility (Tribe or County)	9-10 business days after submission

Application Volume & Outcomes Update

Month	Total Applications	Approved	Denied
July	1159	77% (897)	23% (262)
August	1303	71% (929)	29% (374)
September (through 9/10/26):	521	N/A	N/A

- Online Application Tool
 - Development continues
 - Timeline TBD
 - Training will be offered

Upcoming Process Improvements

Goal	Objective	Proposed Timeline
Faster accurate notifications	Automatic notifications sent out through electronic record system (following application determination)	4-8 weeks
Improve application process	Build online application that can ask appropriate questions for each applicant situation, and require responses when needed	TBD
Improve application process	Refine the July 2026 version of 2780A (BHF application document)	8-12 weeks

Income and Household Verification

Program Integrity

If an applicant selected for audit is unable to submit form 2780D within 60 days:

- It will not affect current BHF span.
- Upon submitting a future BHF eligibility application request, they will be notified of the need to complete and pass the audit before the new application can be reviewed.
- An applicant will **not** be eligible for future BHF eligibility spans if they fail to respond to the audit request **or are found to have provided false information.**

Requesting Change to BHF Span

- Submit new application specifying the needed span start date
 - In some cases, we can enter an **earlier** BHF span start date to match when services actually began

Send an email to dhs.bhf@state.mn.us

with subject line **“CHANGE REQUEST: BHF span date”**, and include:

- ☐ Either the BHF application showing you/agency are listed as secondary contact or completed Release of Information
- ☐ New date requested and brief rationale
- ☐ Clarify your role and communication with applicant (their agreement to the change)

- We have onboarded 4 team members:
 - Emilie Volkman: BHF Eligibility Supervisor
 - Kristen Christensen: BHF Eligibility Coordinator
 - Cher Thao: BHF Eligibility Specialist
 - Sha'Ron Diggins: BHF Eligibility Specialist
 - Surendra Gurramkonda: BHF Eligibility Support Specialist

Thank you!!

Behavioral Health Fund Eligibility Team

DHS.BHF@state.mn.us

[Behavioral Health Fund Webpage](#)

Next Thursday Connections with SUD at DHS

October 15th
3 – 4 p.m.

- Held third Thursday of each month.
No registration required, just join
via the link on the [webpage](#).



Additional Announcements & Reminders

Escalating MCO Payment Problems

1. Contact the payer first

- Confirm billing procedures and specific procedure codes for the date of service.
- Direct initial billing questions or concerns to the payer.

2. Escalating unresolved MCO non-payment

- If an MCO issue cannot be resolved, send non-payment examples to:
- DHS MCO Liaison (dhs bhd_mco@state.mn.us) or
- SUD Policy and Reform team (sud direct.access.dhs@state.mn.us).
 - Include the following documentation:
 - Communication dates and methods
 - Names of MCO staff contacted
 - Ticket or work order numbers
 - Reasons for claim denials



Join us!

October 21st

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

[RSVP Link](#)

Topic: Burnout

For more information, visit the [SUD CoP webpage](#).

Get Involved: SUD Prevention RFP Reviewers

- [Community members invited to review proposals on Substance Use Prevention Program Services to Serve American Indian Populations](#)
- e-Memo #26-89
 - We're recruiting community members, Tribal members, prevention professionals, cultural advisors and those with lived experience, to review proposals for the Substance Use Prevention Program Services to Serve American Indian Populations grant. A stipend is available.
 - Apply by **Sept. 29, 2026**, via the forms link ([SUBG American Indian Prevention RFP Reviewers form](#)).

New E-newsletter for Direct Care Professionals

- [New e-newsletter for direct care professionals](#)
- Launched August 2026
 - For Minnesota's direct support workforce — behavioral or mental health aides
 - Covers free training, events/webinars, policy guidance, and feedback opportunities
 - [Sign up here](#)

Ongoing Resources: SUD Treatment Services and Outpatient Billing Changes

- Friendly reminder of [SUD treatment services and outpatient billing changes resources](#) | e-Memo | 7/2/26
- SUD treatment and outpatient billing change resources
 - [e-Memo, 7/2/26](#)
 - [Information on 2026 Changes \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Accounting for breaks in SUD documentation & billing \(PDF\)](#)
 - [PowerPoint from the July 10 meeting \(PDF\)](#)
- Revised CCBHC Scope of Services in effect since August 1, 2026
 - [BH e-Memo #26-77](#)
 - [Revised CCBHC Scope of Services \(PDF\)](#)

Free ASAM Trainings Available

- DHS partners with **Train for Change** to offer a series of **free ASAM trainings**, e-Memo #26-87, Sept. 1, 2026
 - No cost & CEUs available.
 - In-Person (St. Paul):
 - [Two-day Skill Building Training, Oct 6–7](#)
 - Virtual:
 - [Adolescent ASAM, Oct 1](#)
 - [Evolution of ASAM, Oct 23](#)
 - [Skill-Building, Nov 9–10](#) or [Nov 18–19](#)
 - [Treatment Planning, Nov 12](#)

Ongoing DAANES Training

- DAANES Training Registration
 - Held quarterly, the second Tuesday of the first month of the quarter, 12 - 1 p.m.



Thank You for your continued partnership.

For updates about future meetings and responses to questions not answered during this meeting, please visit the [Thursday Connections with SUD at DHS webpage](#).