

Medicaid members with unverified tribal status

Toolkit for H.R. 1 (unverified tribal status)

Note to customer service and service providers:

With the upcoming H.R. 1 case reviews, many Medicaid members will have questions about how these new federal rules apply to them, specifically regarding work requirements and tribal exemptions. To help you manage these difficult conversations, please use the provided scripts and guidance. Following this wording closely will ensure that all members receive the most accurate information regarding the new H.R. 1 standards and will help reduce confusion during this transition.

The goal is to maintain a supportive, empathetic tone while providing clear, factual information about eligibility and verification changes effective January 1, 2027.

Letters mailed to members:

- April 2026, [Letter to members with unverified tribal status \(yellow paper\)](#)
- April 2026, [Letter to members with verified tribal status \(pink paper\)](#)

Script:

A new federal law, H.R. 1 (OBBBA), was signed on July 4, 2025, and changes the rules for some adults who receive Medicaid. Starting January 1, 2027, this law says that certain adults must work or do community activities for 80 hours each month to keep their Medicaid. Some adults will also be required to complete an eligibility review every 6 months, instead of every 12 months.

If you are American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) with a verified tribal status, you are exempt from these changes. This means you do not have to do these work activities and will keep your review every 12 months.

If your tribal status is not verified, you may have to complete the work requirement each month to keep your Medicaid. To make sure you are exempt from these changes, you will need to turn in your tribal status verification to the Department of Workforce Services (DWS).

How to get your exemption:

To make sure you are exempt from these changes, you will need to turn in your tribal status verification to the Department of Workforce Services (DWS). Send DWS a copy of **one** of these items for each person in your home who is a tribal member:

- **Tribal ID card:** Your tribal identification/enrollment card or number.
- **CDIB paper:** A "Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood" signed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).
- **IHS Face Sheet:** A medical record certified by IHS as being from their original records. It must show your name and date of birth.
- **Tribal court document:** A tribal court document containing identifying information, such as name and the date of birth.
- **Descendent:** Any of the above documents showing tribal membership through a parent or grandparent. You must provide a birth certificate or court document that shows how you are related to them.

Where to send your verification:

Write your **name and case number** on every page you turn in. You can send your papers by mail, fax, in person, or online to:

- **Online:** You can upload them at jobs.utah.gov/mycase
- **Fax:** Toll-Free: 1-877-313-4717
Local: 801-526-9500
- **Mail:** Department of Workforce Services, Imaging Operations
P.O. Box 143245
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-3245
- **In person:** You can drop off copies of documents at any [DWS Employment Center](#) Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

You must turn in your tribal verification by January 1, 2027 to be exempt from this new rule.

Visit the Medicaid website at medicaid.utah.gov/obbba for updates.

Do you have any questions?

FAQ

What is H.R. 1?

On July 4, 2025, H.R. 1, also known as the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act \(OBBBA\)](#), was signed into law. The bill included more than 21 changes to Medicaid. Most of the provisions in the bill will go into effect beginning in the fall of 2026 or later.

Utah Medicaid is currently reviewing the bill, analyzing it for impacts and estimates, and preparing for future programmatic changes. There are many details that have yet to be defined.

We anticipate that guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be provided to states over the next several months. This guidance will give Utah further direction from the federal government on how to implement these changes.

Are all American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) members exempt from H.R. 1?

Yes, but only if their status is verified. AI/AN members with a verified tribal status do not have to participate in the 80-hour monthly work or community activity requirement. They are also exempt from the more frequent 6-month eligibility reviews and will remain on a 12-month review cycle.

What happens if their tribal status is not verified?

If a member's tribal status is not verified by January 1, 2027, they may be required to complete the monthly work requirement and more frequent eligibility reviews to keep their Medicaid. It is very important that tribal members submit their verification to DWS as soon as possible to secure their exemption.

Providers: What should I tell my AI/AN patients?

- **Verify status:** Encourage patients who are tribal members to ensure their status is verified with DWS before January 1, 2027.
- **No action needed if verified:** If the patient's status is already verified, remind them they are exempt from the new work requirements and 6-month reviews.
- **Refer to resources:** Direct patients to medicaid.utah.gov/obbba for the most up-to-date information on H.R. 1.