

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid HR1 Changes



PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY

Department of Social Services

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10/09/2026



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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Presented by Diana Cuya



What is SNAP?

- It provides monthly benefits to eligible individuals and families to help buy food.
- Benefits are deposited into a SNAP account and accessed with an EBT card.
- Eligibility and benefit amounts depend on household circumstances, including income and allowable deductions.





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Recent HR1 Updates

Expense Verification

When applying for or renewing SNAP benefits, customers must now provide documentation verifying expenses for dependent care, shelter, utilities, and medical costs. This ensures they receive the correct benefit amount.

PREVIOUSLY: Customers could provide a verbal statement detailing these types of expenses, and the expense would be allowed as an income deduction.

NOW: To receive the income deduction for these expenses, customers must provide their Benefit Programs Specialist with a **document that shows proof of the expense**.

This new verification requirement applies to applications, Interim Reports and recertifications.

- » Customers will receive a Verification Checklist to let them know what is required.
- » Customers will have 10 days to provide documents that show expenses.
- » For Interim Reports, customers will receive a Request for Action form.

Scan this QR code for a list of accepted documents.



SNAP Work Requirement



SNAP work requirements have changed for current and new customers:

- 1 Age exemptions have changed. If a customer is 64 or under, they are required to meet SNAP work requirements, unless otherwise exempt.
- 2 The dependent child exemption has changed. If customer has a dependent child age 14 or older, they are required to meet SNAP work requirements, unless otherwise exempt.
- 3 Local departments of social services can no longer receive work requirement exemptions based on the availability of jobs in the area.
 - » If a customer is impacted by this change, they should have received the *SNAP Work Requirement Consolidated Information Notice* by mail. This notice:
 - Explains the work requirement, time-limited benefits and how to regain eligibility.
 - Includes a list of work requirement exemptions.
 - Includes instructions for the customer to select all applicable exemptions.
- 4 Effective November 1, 2025, **the following work requirement exemptions for able-bodied adults without dependents are no longer available:**
 - » Experiencing homelessness.
 - » United States veterans.
 - » Between the ages of 18 and 24 and have transitioned out of foster care.

PWC SNAP Recipient Impacts

Meeting the Work Requirement

To receive SNAP benefits beyond three months, a nonexempt able-bodied household member must:

- Work for cash wages in any amount or for in-kind goods or services for 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly;
- Participate in and comply with requirements of an employment services program operated by DSS other than job search, for 20 hours or more per week or for the number of hours assigned for the work experience component as calculated by the household's allotment divided by the federal minimum wage;
- Participate in and comply with non-department (VDSS) work programs for 20 hours or more per week;
- Serve in an unpaid, volunteer capacity for a public or private agency, at a minimum, for the number of hours that is equal to the household's allotment divided by the federal minimum wage; or
- Any combination of these activities. SNAP Manual Part 15.A

Potential Impacts in Virginia Communities

SNAP participants by locality, ABAWD exempt vs. non-exempt

Locality	ABAWD Exempt	ABAWD Non-exempt	Total
Prince William	10,382	710	11,092

SNAP Changes for Qualified Immigrants

Starting December 1, 2025



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**Changes to the non-citizen policy effective December 1, 2025.
Certain individuals will no longer be eligible for SNAP benefits.**

Qualified immigrants who were previously eligible for SNAP are now, not eligible unless they have Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status and meet all other SNAP eligibility criteria.

Immigrants with the following status may be eligible for SNAP, if all other SNAP eligibility criteria are met:

They include:

- Refugees and people who were granted asylum by an immigration judge.
- Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders.
- Most people who were allowed into the U.S. temporarily (parolees).
- Certain Afghan and Ukrainian groups granted parole (Afghan nationals granted parole between 7/31/2021 and 9/30/2023 and Ukrainian nationals granted parole between 2/24/2022 and 9/30/2024).
- Survivors of domestic violence, victims of severe human trafficking and some family members.
- People who were allowed to enter the U.S. under special rules or whose deportation was stopped (withholding of removal).

- Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status (may have a 5-year waiting period).
- Cuban/Haitian entrants.
- COFA (Compact of Free Association) citizens: People from Micronesia, Palau or the Marshall Islands.
- Non-citizen U.S. nationals.

SNAP Update for VaCAP Customers

Starting June 1, 2026



Customers who receive SNAP benefits through the **Virginia Combined Application Project (VaCAP)** will transition to the **Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)** at their next recertification.
VaCAP ended effective June 1, 2026.

This transition changes how SNAP eligibility and benefit amounts are determined for former VaCAP customers.

What Is Changing

- A Benefit Programs Specialist may need to complete an interview with the customer.
- SNAP benefit amounts will be based on the household's **income and allowable expenses** rather than a fixed VaCAP benefit amount.
- At the next recertification, customers will be required to provide additional information to determine continued SNAP eligibility and the appropriate benefit amount. This may include:
 - Income information
 - Shelter and allowable medical expenses
 - Information about all individuals living in the household
 - Employment information for household members
 - Lottery or gambling winnings of **\$4,500 or more**
- Following recertification, customers will be responsible for reporting required changes in accordance with SNAP reporting requirements.

SNAP Chip EBT Cards

Starting September 1, 2026



What's Changing?

Virginia will begin issuing new chip-enabled [SNAP EBT cards](#). These chip cards will replace current magnetic stripe cards, helping to safeguard nutrition benefits and reduce fraud.

Just like modern debit and ATM cards, the new cards use dual-interface technology, allowing both tap and chip-insert transactions for a more secure experience.

Chip card will include a new expiration date and three-digit security code for online purchases and PIN setup/reset.

Customers in Virginia will receive cards **between October and December 2026**.

What Customers Need to Do

Confirm that your mailing address, phone number and email are up to date with your local department of social services. This step will ensure that your new card arrives without delay.

When the chip card arrives, follow enclosed instructions:

- Activate the card
- Set a new PIN

Once activated, you will be able to use your chip card at stores, farmers markets and other locations throughout Virginia that accept EBT cards.

Important: Your old magnetic stripe card will automatically **deactivate 60 days after the new card is mailed, even if you have not activated the new one.**

Additional Questions:

Email: VAchip@dss.virginia.gov

Call: 866-281-2448 (EBT Customer Service Help Desk)

SNAP-Eligible Beverages Changes

Starting November 1, 2026

Starting November 1, 2026, SNAP customers will no longer be able to purchase carbonated sweetened drinks using their SNAP benefits in Virginia. Eligibility to participate in SNAP and benefit amount is not affected by this change.

Beverages that will not be SNAP-eligible beginning November 1, 2026

- Soda
- Diet soda
- “Zero” or zero-sugar soda
- Carbonated energy drinks
- Carbonated drinks with 5 grams of added sugar or more per serving

Beverages that are still SNAP-eligible

- Non-carbonated energy drinks (“fizz-free”)
- Unsweetened seltzer drinks
- Lemonade
- Juice
- Iced tea
- Iced coffee
- Milk and milk alternatives
- Yogurt drinks
- Kombucha
- Infant formula
- Nutritional products like meal replacement shakes or drinks





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H.R.1 Medicaid Updates

Presented by Erika Guevara



What is Medicaid?

Medicaid

Medicaid is a federally and state funded program that provides health coverage to eligible low-income adults, children, *pregnant* women, elderly adults and people with disabilities.



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Medicaid Noncitizen Updates Effective 10/1/2026

Medicaid Noncitizen Eligibility Changes

Starting October 1, 2026



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Limits eligibility for non-pregnant adults to:

- U.S. citizens and nationals
- Lawful Permanent Residents (aka Green Card Holders), **after 5 years**
 - ❑ 5-year bar continue to be waived for certain LPRs (see next slide)
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants, 7-year limit
- Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants

Does NOT impact the eligibility rules for:

- Legally residing children under 19 and pregnant individuals
- FAMIS Prenatal, pregnancy coverage regardless of status
- CHIP Health Services Initiatives (HSI)
- Emergency Medicaid

Medicaid Noncitizen Changes

Starting October 1, 2026



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Noncitizen Citizen Eligibility, Non-Pregnant Adults

Before October 1, 2026	As of October 1, 2026
• Lawful Permanent Residents • Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants • Parolees • Conditional Entrants • Battered noncitizen • Refugees • Asylees • Amerasians* • Cuban and Haitian entrants • Deportees whose deportation is withheld • Victims of trafficking and their spouse, child, sibling or parent • Iraqi and Afghan with Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs)* • Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) recipients • Certain American Indians/Alaskan Natives born in Canada • Legally residing active-duty military/veterans and their spouses and dependent children	• Lawful Permanent Residents • Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants • Cuban and Haitian entrants <i>* Amerasian and SIV status automatically receive LPR status and can be treated as such.</i>



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H.R.1 Medicaid Expansion Changes Effective 1/1/2027

H.R.1 Medicaid Expansion Changes

Starting January 1, 2027



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What is Changing?



NEW WORK REQUIREMENT

For some members to keep their coverage



6-MONTH ELIGIBILITY RENEWALS

Instead of every 12 months

WHO DO THESE CHANGES APPLY TO?

These changes only apply to Medicaid Expansion members.

Medicaid Expansion covers adults:

- Ages 19–64
- Income below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$22,025 per year for an individual)
- Not eligible for Medicare

WORK REQUIREMENT EXEMPTIONS

Does NOT apply to:

- Children 18 or younger and adults 65 or older
- Pregnant or postpartum individuals
- Adults with serious medical/mental health conditions, substance use disorder, or disability
- Entitled to or enrolled in Medicare Part A or B
- Receiving Title-IV foster care or adoption assistance
- Parents/guardians/caregivers of children under 14 or individuals with a disability
- Individuals subject to SNAP or TANF work requirements
- Veterans with a 100% disability rating
- Participating in a substance use disorder treatment program
- Recently or currently incarcerated individuals
- American Indian or Alaska Native individuals**

**** These individuals are also exempt from 6-month renewals and will continue to be renewed every 12 months.**

For the full list of exemptions and implementation guidance, visit Virginia DMAS (dmas.virginia.gov).

H.R.1 Medicaid Expansion Changes

Starting January 1, 2027



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How to Meet the New Work Requirements?

There are two ways to meet the new requirement:

1. You or your household earn at least \$580 a month (or, for seasonal workers, an average of \$580 over six months).

2. Or you do 80 hours of activities a month. Activities can be a combination of:

- Work at a job
- Be in a work training program
- Do unpaid work, like an internship
- Go to school at least half-time
- Volunteer or perform community service

You may mix these activities

What Steps Can Someone Take Today?

- Keep your contact information up to date such as: address, email or phone number, and keep an eye out for important notifications from Virginia Medicaid.

- Information can be updated through CommonHelp at commonhelp.virginia.gov, or by contacting CoverVA via virtual chat at coverva.dmas.virginia.gov or calling 855-242-8282 (TTY: 888-221-1590)

HR.1 Medicaid Expansion Changes

Reducing Retroactive Coverage starting January 1, 2027



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Medicaid

- **Medicaid Expansion:** Retroactive coverage **reduced to one month**
- **Non-Medicaid Expansion Eligibility Groups:** Retroactive coverage **reduced to two months**
 - ☐ Current exceptions (ex: QMB) still apply

CHIP (FAMIS)

- Reduces optional CHIP retroactive coverage from three to two months.
- VA does not provide retroactive coverage through CHIP
 - ☐ Exception: Newborns for whom an application is submitted within three months of birth, this will be **reduced to two months of birth.**

H.R1 Medicaid Expansion Recipient Impacts

Starting January 1, 2027



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PWC Medicaid Expansion Recipient Impacts

Medicaid Expansion Total Recipients

*24,464 Medicaid recipients fall into this Medicaid Expansion category.

*This number is subject to change based on recipients who would meet Work Requirement exemptions.

Frequency of Expansion Eligibility Redeterminations

Requires redetermination for Expansion enrolled individuals to occur **every six months**; currently redetermination occurs on an annual basis.

H.R.1 Resources

Session (By Audience)	Date	Time
Members/Applicants	September 15, 2026	12:00pm - 1:00pm
Health Care Providers	September 24, 2026	7:30am - 8:30am
Advocates and Community Stakeholders	October 22, 2026	6:00pm - 7:00pm
General Session - Everyone	November 10, 2026	12:00pm - 1:00pm
General Session - Everyone	December 2, 2026	12:00pm - 1:00pm
General Session - Everyone	January 15, 2027	12:00pm - 1:00pm



For Town Hall session links and details, scan QR code or visit: [Town Halls](#) | [Virginia Medicaid](#)

Resources Links:

- [Public Assistance Programs](#)
- [Member Letter, Toolkit and FAQs | Virginia Medicaid](#)
- [What Is Changing Member Flyer](#)
- [Member Flyer](#)
- [Understanding Work Requirement Pathway](#)
- [Medicaid Expansion Renewal Flowchart](#)
- [HR1 General Member Factsheet 05-19-2026](#)



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Coming Soon

Referral Process for Workforce Coordination Services & Technology

Presented by Diana Cuya

Workforce Coordination Services (WCS) PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

- ❑ VDSS' Workforce Coordination Services Workgroup is focused on building a clear and accessible framework that ensures SNAP and Medicaid recipients subject to the work requirements are consistently identified, proactively engaged, and connected to the workforce resources that support economic mobility.
- ❑ VDSS is developing a coordinated approach to help SNAP and Medicaid recipients understand and meet applicable work requirements by connecting them with employment, training, and community engagement opportunities.
- ❑ This initiative will also leverage technology, including TONI and the Medicaid Work Portal, to streamline verification, reduce the need for manual documentation, and allow customers to upload documents and track their progress toward meeting work requirements.



What Counts as Qualifying Activities?



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What Counts as Qualifying Activities?

Work

- Paid employment
- Self-employment
- In-kind work
- Unpaid work (unpaid internships, trial-period work, and certain caregiving activities)

Volunteering

Unpaid work for public or nonprofit entities, such as:

- Volunteer work for charitable organizations, schools, food banks, or shelters
- Community improvement projects
- Court-ordered community service

Education

- High school or state-approved GED program
- Higher education (e.g., college, graduate, and doctorate programs)
- Career and technical education programs

Work Training

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) authorized programs
- State-approved employment and training programs
- Veterans' employment and training programs
- Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs
- Among others

Coordinated Workforce Support

Connecting Medicaid customers to resources that can help them meet work requirements

1 Ask

At initial application and renewal, customers see a short set of optional workforce questions, in CommonHelp, or asked by a benefits worker.

The questions are optional and never affect eligibility, exemptions, or benefits.

2 Refer

With the customer's consent, the system sends a data referral to Virginia Works and any other agency that fits the customer's interests and needs. The customer can also "self-refer" directly with the agency.

Referrals also go out whenever someone subject to the requirement is found not meeting it.

3 Support

The receiving referral partner connects with the customer for coaching, training, education, volunteer service, and help with barriers.

As much as possible, referrals are received by local agencies who can triage additional support as needed.

ASK: How we find out where to send someone?



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Ask: how we find out where to send someone

The same 10 questions, whichever door the person came through

ASKED AT

Initial application or renewal

Citizen Services Call Center

SNAP interview

TONI

QUESTIONS 1 TO 5

Barrier removal

1. Comfortable using computers and devices
2. Access to a device and the internet
3. English language help or an interpreter
4. A safe and stable place to live
5. Utilities shut off, or about to be

Answers route to TONI, 211 Virginia and to Lifeline Support.

QUESTIONS 6 TO 10

Who to refer the person to

6. Help finding or preparing for a job > Virginia Works
7. English, a diploma, college prep > Adult Education
8. Training at the community colleges > VCCS Fast Forward
9. Volunteering to meet the requirement > Serve Virginia
10. A disabling condition, wants to work > DARS

For now, only question 6 will produce an automated referral.

The questions are optional, are repeated for each adult age 18 to 64, and have no bearing on whether someone is found eligible for benefits.

REFER: A Network of Support

**Referral routes to the service that fits;
Customers can also connect directly at any time.**

Virginia Works

Statewide workforce network and career coaching

SNAP E&T Agencies

Employment and training services for SNAP customers

Adult Basic Education

English language, GED, and adult education classes

FastForward (VCCS)

Short-term credentials at community colleges

DARS

Employment services for people with disabilities

Serve Virginia

Volunteer service opportunities statewide

211 Virginia

Statewide directory of local help and resources

TONI

24/7 answers, coaching, and navigation from the intelligent agent

TONI – Intelligent Assistance

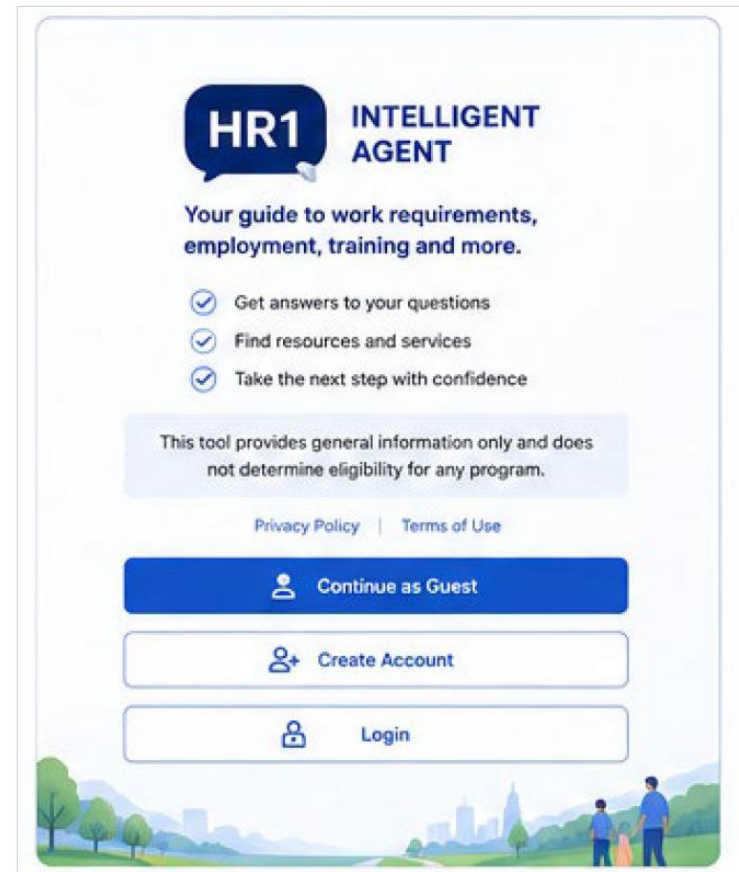
Meet TONI

Tools, Outreach, Navigation and Insight

VDSS' new intelligent agent for the HR1 work requirement.

- A guide customers can talk with 24/7, in plain language
- Answers questions about the rules, clearly and kindly
- Coaches each customer toward a real plan to meet the requirement
- Connects people to training, volunteering, and help with barriers
- **Piloting this fall. Live for January**

** NOTE: While TONI will advise on the rules and policy surrounding work requirements, it will never make predictions or determination about someone's benefits.*



How Virginia Communities Can Help Spread the Word

Community partners play an important role in helping Medicaid members understand changes to their coverage.

We encourage organizations to:

Inform - Share accurate information about upcoming Medicaid changes

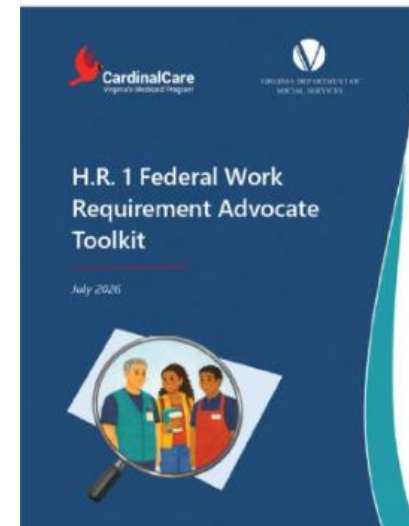
Remind - Encourage residents to read notices and complete renewals timely

Update - Remind members to keep contact information current (telephone numbers, emails, addresses, etc.)

Identify - Recognize circumstances that may indicate a possible exemption

Connect - Link residents to employment, training, volunteer and community-service opportunities

Refer - Direct individual eligibility and exemption questions to local DSS/Cover Virginia



[HR1 Work Requirement Advocate Toolkit](#)

Community Partners

**Presented by: Bonnie Fulford-Nahas,
The Grant Weaver, LLC**

**Can your organization support clients in need
of VOLUNTEER hours to meet new Medicaid
requirements?**



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE SINCE 1981

Building Stronger Nonprofits. Building a Stronger Community.

Volunteer opportunities needed to support clients with new Medicaid requirements beginning January 1, 2027.

Give Back Prince William and **Volunteer Prince William** have partnered to train staff in volunteer management and provide a volunteer matching platform with hour tracking. If you are a non-profit, faith-based organization, or organization in need of volunteers – this is a perfect opportunity to join the platform for free and help those in need of volunteer hours for Medicaid requirements and build a stronger community!

Volunteer service can count toward the 80-hour monthly requirement for certain adults.

States generally must implement the rule by **January 1, 2027**.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Check requirements first: | Help clients confirm whether the rule applies and whether they qualify for an exemption. |
| Match clients with opportunities: | Offer or refer clients to accessible volunteer roles with schedules that fit their needs. Clients may check the database at any time to find volunteer roles that align with their hours needed, availability, and interests. |
| Make participation manageable: | Provide orientation and help clients address transportation or accessibility barriers. Some clients may benefit from using OmniRide service, which is free within PWC. |
| Help clients document hours: | Keep dated hour logs with supervisor confirmation and help clients follow state reporting instructions. |

Confirm qualifying activities, exemptions and reporting rules with the client's state Medicaid agency before placement.



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Questions?





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Thank you!

