DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Bulletin

NUMBER
#26-21-08

DATE
October 1, 2026

OF INTEREST TO
County Directors

Social Services Supervisors and Staff

Financial Assistance Supervisors and Workers

Tribal Chairpersons and Tribal Health Directors

Navigators, Certified Application Counselors, and Brokers

ACTION/DUE DATE
Effective January 1, 2027

EXPIRATION DATE
October 1, 2028

DHS Announces Six-Month Eligibility Renewals for Certain Adults Enrolled in MA or EMA

TOPIC

Six-month eligibility renewals for certain adults without children enrolled in Medical Assistance (MA) or Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA).

PURPOSE

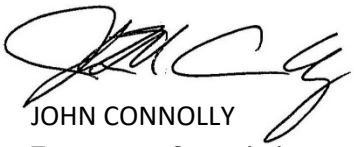
This bulletin provides information about six-month eligibility renewals for certain adults without children who are enrolled in MA or EMA beginning January 1, 2027.

CONTACT

Counties and Tribal agencies can submit eligibility policy questions to HealthQuest. All others can direct questions to:

Health Care Eligibility and Access Division
PO Box 64989
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St. Paul, MN 55164-0989

SIGNED



JOHN CONNOLLY
Temporary Commissioner and State Medicaid Director
Department of Human Services

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. Background

Currently, eligibility for Medicaid and Emergency Medicaid must be renewed every twelve months. Medicaid and Emergency Medicaid enrollees have a twelve-month period of eligibility that begins the month they applied and ends eleven months later. Eligibility must be redetermined and renewed to continue beyond the twelfth month.

Beginning January 1, 2027, a new federal law, Public Law 119-21, also known as H.R. 1 and the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), requires that eligibility renewals for Medicaid (known in Minnesota as Medical Assistance [MA]) and Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) occur every six months instead of 12 months for people enrolled in these programs under the adults without children basis of eligibility.

II. Six-Month Eligibility Renewals

Beginning January 1, 2027, an eligibility renewal must occur every six months for MA and EMA adults without children. These are enrollees age 19 through age 64 whose eligibility is determined using the modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) methodology. These individuals are also referred to as the "MA adult expansion group."

Six-month renewals do not apply to MA or EMA enrollees who:

- Are under age 19 or over age 65,
- Are enrolled in MA or EMA under a parent, caretaker relative, pregnant person, former foster care youth or disability basis of eligibility,
- Are entitled to or enrolled in Medicare Part A or enrolled in Medicare Part B,
- Are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients,
- Are former SSI recipients who stopped receiving SSI when they began receiving Retirement, Survivor, Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA) under a deceased spouse or deceased or retired parent's earning record, or
- Are eligible for MA under Section 1619 (a) or (b) of the Social Security Act.

People who are American Indians or Alaska Natives enrolled in MA or EMA as adults without children are exempt from six-month eligibility renewals. They will continue to have eligibility renewals every 12 months. To meet this exemption, a person must be of lineal Tribal descent, be an enrolled Tribal member or be eligible for Tribal enrollment at a federally recognized Tribe. Proof of American Indian or Alaska Native status is not required unless an applicant or enrollee's attestation of status is inconsistent with other information or documentation the agency previously collected. See the Eligibility Policy Manual (EPM) Section 1.3.2.4 Inconsistent Information.

All renewal policies and procedures apply to six-month renewals including ex parte renewal processes and procedures. See the EPM Section 2.2.4.2 Renewals for more information.

Beginning January 1, 2027, MA adults without children who have an eligibility renewal every six months are not subject to periodic data matching. An eligibility renewal is a more thorough redetermination process and replaces periodic data matching for these enrollees. American Indians and Alaska Natives who are MA adults without children and all other MA enrollees whose cases are in the Minnesota Eligibility Technology Solution (METS) remain subject to periodic data matching after January 1, 2027.

III. Implementation of Six-Month Eligibility Renewals

A. Adults without children applying for MA or EMA

1. No household members have an active health care case

Adults without children who apply on and after January 1, 2027, who are not American Indians or Alaska Natives and who qualify for MA or EMA, are subject to six-month eligibility renewals. If no household members have an active health care case at time of application, they will have a six-month period of eligibility that begins the month they applied and ends five months later. They will have an eligibility renewal every six months as specified in Table 1.

Table 1: Initial period of eligibility and first renewal month for adults without children applicants

Month of application	Initial period of eligibility	First renewal month	Next eligibility period, if renewed	Next renewal month
January 2027	1/1/2027 – 6/30/2027	July 2027	7/1/2027 – 12/31/2027	January 2028
February 2027	2/1/2027 – 7/31/2027	August 2027	8/1/2027 – 1/31/2028	February 2028
March 2027	3/1/2027 – 8/31/2027	September 2027	9/1/2027 –2/29/2028	March 2028
April 2027	4/1/2027 – 9/30/2027	October 2027	10/1/2027 – 3/31/2028	April 2028
May 2027	5/1/2027 – 10/31/2027	November 2027	11/1/2027 – 4/30/2028	May 2028
June 2027	6/1/2027 – 11/30/2027	December 2027	12/1/2027 – 5/31/2028	June 2028
July 2027	7/1/2027 – 12/31/2027	January 2028	1/1/2028 – 6/30/2028	July 2028
August 2027	8/1/2027 – 1/1/2028	February 2028	2/1/2028 – 7/31/2028	August 2028
September 2027	9/1/2027 – 2/29/2028	March 2028	3/1/2028 – 8/31/2028	September 2028
October 2027	10/1/2027 – 3/31/2028	April 2028	4/1/2028 – 9/30/2028	October 2028
November 2027	11/1/2027 – 4/30/2028	May 2028	5/1/2028 – 10/31/2028	November 2028
December 2027	12/1/2027 – 5/31/2028	June 2028	6/1/2028 – 11/30/2028	December 2028

Example 1:

Sam, age 30, and Kai, age 32, are a married couple without children. They submit an online application on April 23, 2027. Sam and Kai meet all eligibility criteria and are approved for MA for adults without children. They have a six-month period of eligibility that begins April 1, 2027, and ends September 30, 2027. Sam and Kai's MA renewal is scheduled for October 2027.

Example 2:

Charlize, age 25, applies for health care on February 14, 2027. She does not have children. She attests to having a medical emergency and does not have an MA eligible immigration status. Charlize meets all other MA eligibility criteria and is approved for EMA under the adults without children basis. Charlize's six-month period of eligibility for EMA begins February 1, 2027, and ends July 31, 2027. Her first EMA eligibility renewal is scheduled for August 2027. (EMA covered services may require other approval processes.)

2. The individual or other household members have an active health care case

Adults without children approved for MA or EMA on an active health care case on and after January 1, 2027, will have a renewal within the first six months of eligibility if MA or EMA is approved before the ex parte renewal process initiates for the next six-month eligibility period. If the MA or EMA approval occurs after the renewal was initiated, the individual's first renewal will be at the end of the second six-month eligibility period.

Example 3:

Tracy is on a health care case with her spouse, Taylor. Tracy does not have MA coverage because she has health insurance through her employer. Taylor is enrolled in MA for adults without children because they could not afford the premiums to cover Taylor through Tracy's employer. Taylor has an MA renewal scheduled for December 2027.

Tracy's health insurance through her employer ended. Tracy and Taylor contact their servicing agency in January 2027 and request health care coverage for Tracy. The agency gathers the information needed to determine eligibility for Tracy and approved Tracy for MA for adults without children effective January 1, 2027. Since December was the original application month for this case, six-month renewals will occur for June and December. Tracy's eligibility was approved before the ex parte process for June renewals had been initiated. Therefore, Tracy's first MA renewal will be for June 2027. Tracy's eligibility begins January 1, 2027, and ends May 31, 2027. If Tracy's MA for adults without children is renewed for June 2027, her next MA renewal will be for December 2027. Taylor's next renewal remains for December 2027.

Example 4:

Kennedy applied for health care in September 2026 and was enrolled in MinnesotaCare. A renewal is completed for January 2027 and he remains eligible for MinnesotaCare.

In February 2027, Kennedy called DHS to report he had lost his job, and his only income was unemployment benefits of $350 per week. DHS gathered the necessary information and proof, redetermined his eligibility and approved MA for adults without children effective February 1, 2027. Since September was his original application month, his MA renewals will occur for March and September. Kennedy was approved after the ex parte process for March 2027 renewals had been initiated, therefore Kennedy's first MA renewal will be for September 2027.

Kennedy is renewed for MA for adults without children for September 2027. He is given a six-month period of eligibility that begins September 1, 2027, and ends February 29, 2028. His next renewal is for March 2028.

B. Adults without children who are MA and EMA enrollees

Adults without children who were enrolled in MA or EMA before January 1, 2027, and who are not American Indians or Alaska Natives, will be subject to six-month eligibility renewals after their next regularly scheduled annual renewal initiated in January 2027 or later. When an MA or EMA enrollee goes from 12-month eligibility renewals to six-month eligibility renewals, 10-day advance notice of this reduction in the eligibility period must be given to the enrollee.

1. MA enrollees whose eligibility is in METS

For MA adults without children with eligibility supported by METS, six-month eligibility renewals will start with the April 2027 renewal cohort, which initiates in January 2027. MA adults without children who have a renewal month of April 2027 or later and whose eligibility is renewed will be given a six-month period of eligibility.

It will take a full year to transition all current enrollees to six-month renewals starting with the April 2027 renewal cohort and ending with the March 2028 renewal cohort, as specified in Table 2.

Table 2: Six-month renewal transition schedule for enrollees with eligibility in METS

Renewal cohort	Next period of eligibility if renewed	Next renewal month
April 2027	4/1/2027 – 9/30/2027	October 2027
May 2027	5/1/2027 – 10/31/2027	November 2027
June 2027	6/1/2027 – 11/30/2027	December 2027
July 2027	7/1/2027 – 12/31/2027	January 2028
August 2027	8/1/2027 – 1/31/2028	February 2028
September 2027	9/1/2027 – 2/29/2028	March 2028
October 2027	10/1/2027 – 3/31/2028	April 2028
November 2027	11/1/2027 – 4/30/2028	May 2028
December 2027	12/1/2027 – 5/31/2028	June 2028
January 2028	1/1/2028 – 6/30/2028	July 2028
February 2028	2/1/2028 – 7/31/2028	August 2028
March 2028	3/1/2028 – 8/31/2028	September 2028

Example 5:

Luna and Franny are married and are enrolled in MA for adults without children. Their MA renewal is scheduled for May 2027. DHS starts their renewal in February 2027 and cannot confirm their eligibility using the ex parte process. They are mailed a renewal form, which they return with all necessary proofs on April 5, 2027. The servicing agency determines they remain eligible for MA for adults without children. MA is approved for a six-month period of eligibility that begins May 1, 2027, and ends October 31, 2027. Luna and Franny are mailed a 10-day advance notice about the change from a 12-month period of eligibility to a six-month period of eligibility. Their next renewal month is November 2027.

Example 6:

Mia is enrolled in MA for adults without children and her renewal month is January 2027. Her MA is renewed for a 12-month period of eligibility, January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027.

Mia's next MA renewal is scheduled for January 2028. If she remains eligible, she will be renewed for a six-month period of eligibility, January 1, 2028, through June 30, 2028, and will be mailed a 10-day advance notice about the change from a 12-month period of eligibility to a six-month period of eligibility. Her next MA renewal would be scheduled for July 2028.

2. MA and EMA enrollees whose eligibility is in MAXIS

For MA and EMA adults without children with eligibility supported by MAXIS, six-month eligibility renewals will start with the March 2027 renewal cohort, which initiates in January 2027. MA or EMA adults without children who have a renewal month of March 2027 or later and whose eligibility is renewed will be given a six-month period of eligibility.

It will take a full year to transition all current enrollees to six-month renewals starting with the March 2027 renewal cohort and ending with the February 2028 renewal cohort, as specified in Table 3.

Table 3: Six-month renewal transition schedule for enrollees with eligibility in MAXIS

Renewal cohort	Next period of eligibility if renewed	Next renewal month
March 2027	3/1/2027 – 8/31/2027	September 2027
April 2027	4/1/2027 – 9/30/2027	October 2027
May 2027	5/1/2027 – 10/31/2027	November 2027
June 2027	6/1/2027 – 11/30/2027	December 2027
July 2027	7/1/2027 – 12/31/2027	January 2028
August 2027	8/1/2027 – 1/31/2028	February 2028
September 2027	9/1/2027 – 2/29/2028	March 2028
October 2027	10/1/2027 – 3/31/2028	April 2028
November 2027	11/1/2027 – 4/30/2028	May 2028
December 2027	12/1/2027 – 5/31/2028	June 2028
January 2028	1/1/2028 – 6/30/2028	July 2028
February 2028	2/1/2028 – 7/31/2028	August 2028

Example 7:

Hiro is enrolled in MA for adults without children with eligibility in MAXIS. His MA renewal is scheduled for July 2027. DHS starts his renewal in May 2027. He returns the renewal form with the necessary information and documentation to the servicing agency on June 3, 2027. The servicing agency determines Hiro remains eligible for MA for adults without children. He is given a six-month period of eligibility, July 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027. Hiro is mailed a 10-day advance notice about the change from a 12-month period of eligibility to a six-month period of eligibility. His next renewal is scheduled for January 2028.

Example 8:

Jan is enrolled in EMA for adults without children. Their EMA renewal is scheduled for February 2027. DHS starts Jan's renewal in December 2026, and they return the renewal form with all necessary information and documentation on January 13, 2027. The servicing agency determines they remain eligible for EMA for adults without children. EMA is renewed for a 12-month period of eligibility, February 1, 2027, through January 31, 2028. Jan's next renewal is scheduled for February 2028.

At the renewal for February 2028, Jan remains eligible and EMA for adults without children is renewed. They are given a six-month period of eligibility, February 1, 2028, through July 31, 2028. Jan is mailed a 10-day advance notice about the change from a 12-month period of eligibility to a six-month period of eligibility. Jan's next EMA renewal is scheduled for August 2028.

3. MA or EMA enrollees with a change in basis of eligibility to adults without children on and after January 1, 2027

Servicing agencies must review eligibility under all other MA bases if an enrollee no longer qualifies for MA or EMA under their current basis of eligibility, including at renewal. This may result in an enrollee being newly determined eligible for MA or EMA for adults without children. If this occurs at renewal, and the enrollee is determined eligible for MA or EMA for adults without children, the enrollee will be given a six-month period of eligibility, and will be subject to six-month eligibility renewals.

If this change occurs between renewals on or after January 1, 2027, the enrollee will have a renewal within the first six months if eligibility is approved before the ex parte renewal process initiates for the next six-month eligibility period. If the approval occurs after the renewal was initiated, the individual's first renewal as an adult without children will be at the end of the second six-month eligibility period.

Example 9:

Anton is enrolled in MA under a disabled basis of eligibility. His eligibility information is in MAXIS, and his next MA renewal is scheduled for May 2027. Anton's continued eligibility cannot be confirmed using the ex parte process, so he is sent a renewal form. He submits his renewal form with all necessary information and documentation on April 4, 2027. The servicing agency processes the renewal and confirms the State Medical Review Team (SMRT) denied Anton's recent disability review. The servicing agency completes the Supplement to the Minnesota Health Care Programs Application for Certain Populations (DHS-6696B) over the phone with Anton to gather information needed to determine if Anton qualifies for MA under another basis of eligibility. On April 19, 2027, the servicing agency approves MA for adults without children in METS.

Anton is subject to six-month eligibility renewals. Since May was his original application month, his renewals will occur for November and May. Anton's six-month period of eligibility begins May 1, 2027, and ends October 31, 2027. Anton is mailed a 10-day advance notice of the changes in basis of eligibility and eligibility period duration. His next renewal is scheduled for November 2027.

Example 10:

Maureen is enrolled in MA under a pregnant person basis of eligibility. Unfortunately, her pregnancy ends as a result of a miscarriage. Her 12-month postpartum period ends January 31, 2027, and her renewal is scheduled for the month of February 2027. DHS starts Maureen's renewal in November 2026 but cannot confirm her eligibility using the ex parte process. Maureen submits her renewal form on January 4, 2027, with all necessary information and documentation. The servicing agency determines Maureen is now eligible for MA for adults without children beginning February 1, 2027. Maureen remains subject to 12-month eligibility renewals and is given a 12-month period of eligibility, February 1, 2027, through January 31, 2028. Her next renewal is scheduled for February 2028.

At renewal in 2028, Maureen is renewed for MA for adults without children. She is now subject to six-month eligibility renewals and is given a six-month period of eligibility, February 1, 2028, through July 31, 2028. Maureen is mailed a 10-day advance notice of the change from a 12-month period of eligibility to a six-month period of eligibility. Her next renewal is scheduled for August 2028.

Example 11:

Marina is enrolled in MA with a parent basis of eligibility. Her 18-year-old son, Gaspar, lives with her and she attests she expects to claim him as a tax dependent. Marina and Gaspar were renewed for MA eligibility for March 2027.

On April 5, 2027, Marina reports Gaspar is no longer living with her and she no longer expects to claim him as a tax dependent. The servicing agency removes Gaspar from Marina's case and determines she is now eligible for MA for adults without children beginning May 1, 2027. Since March was the original application month, her MA renewals will occur for March and September. Marina was approved for MA for adults without children before the ex parte process for September 2027 renewals had been initiated and has eligibility from May 1, 2027, through August 31, 2027. Marina is mailed a 10-day advance notice of the changes in basis of eligibility and eligibility period duration from a 12-month to a six-month period of eligibility. Her next MA renewal will occur for September 2027.

Marina is renewed for MA for adults without children for September 2027. She is given a six-month period of eligibility that begins September 1, 2027, and ends February 29, 2028. Her next renewal is for March 2028.

IV. Action Required

County, Tribal and DHS workers must follow the policies outlined in this bulletin and instructions issued following the publication of this bulletin.

V. Legal Authority

Public Law 119-21, section 71107

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services State Medical Director Letter #26-001, pub. March 6, 2026

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling 651-297-3862 or toll free at 800-657-3672 or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.