



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

PHONE:
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April 13, 2026

Case Number:

Community Engagement

Some adults must take part in Community Engagement (CE) activities each month to be eligible for Medicaid Expansion. CE activities help connect people with work, education, and community services. Learn how you can meet the requirement — or qualify not to participate — based on federal rules.

If you are not exempt or excluded from participation, you must demonstrate you meet the criteria in the month prior to the month in which you want coverage to begin.

If you meet one of the following criteria and were denied or terminated for Medicaid Expansion based solely on Community Engagement criteria, contact your local office. Find your local office at <https://dss.sd.gov/findyourlocaloffice/>.

- ✓ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ✓ Pregnant or Postpartum (the pregnancy must have ended within the last 12 months, and you must have been enrolled in Medicaid when the pregnancy ended)
- ✓ Parents, guardians, caretaker relatives, or family caregivers of a dependent child under the age of 14 or a disabled individual of any age
- ✓ Incarcerated currently or within the 90 days prior to application date

Ways to Meet the Community Engagement Requirement

You can meet the requirement by completing one or a combination of the following activities.

If we are unable to electronically verify your Community Engagement activities, you will need to provide verification. The chart below explains the activities and acceptable verifications.

| Community Engagement Activities | Acceptable Documents |
|---|---|
| Working 80+ hours per month or a monthly income of \$580 (the Federal Minimum Wage multiplied by 80 hours per month) per month (if you are a seasonal employee, the last 6 months of work are averaged) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wage Verification Form ✓ Written Employer Statement ✓ Pay Stub/Earning Statement ✓ Self-Employment Ledgers ✓ Gross Income Statement |
| Completing 80+ hours per month of community service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Written Community Service Provider Statement ✓ Time Sheets ✓ Completed Attestation Form |
| Participating in a formal Employment-Training Program (such as SNAP, TANF, or WIOA) 80+ hours per month | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Written Program Statement ✓ Written Employer Statement |
| Enrollment in an educational program at least half-time, such as an institution of higher education or a career and technical education program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enrollment Verification Letter ✓ Current Class Schedule ✓ Tuition or Billing Statement |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Transcript with Current Registration ✓ Letter or Statement from the Educational Program |
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If you need assistance verifying your activities, please contact your local DSS office. You can find local office information at <https://dss.sd.gov/findyourlocaloffice/>.

Employment Assistance

The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation provides support, education, and training to individuals seeking employment in South Dakota.

Search for jobs online using **SDWORKS** at <https://www.southdakotaworks.org/vosnet/default.aspx>.

Find one on one support at a local office at <https://dlr.sd.gov/localoffices/default.aspx#find-office>.

Community Service and Community Resource Assistance

The Helpline Center’s Volunteer Connections program is the critical link between individuals looking to volunteer and the nonprofit agencies that need volunteers. Locate volunteer opportunities in the Sioux Empire, Brookings, and Black Hills communities at <https://volunteer.helplinecenter.org/>.

The Helpline Center can connect you to resources and support in your community through the 211 Helpline. Call 211, text your zip code to 898211, or visit <https://www.helplinecenter.org/> to learn more.

Community Engagement Exemptions

You do not have to meet Community Engagement requirements to qualify for Medicaid Expansion if any of the following apply. You must still meet other eligibility criteria.

If we are unable to electronically verify your exemption, you may need to provide verification. The chart below explains exemptions and acceptable verifications.

| Community Engagement Exemptions | Acceptable Documents |
|--|--|
| Determined currently disabled by the Social Security Administration | ✓ Statement from the Social Security Administration |
| Veteran with a disability rated as total | ✓ Statement from the Veteran’s Administration |
| Medically Frail (see below) and/or Participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Written statement by a medical provider ✓ Medical records of your diagnoses ✓ Completed Medical Frailty Screening Tool |

You may be considered medically frail if you have a serious physical, mental, or emotional health condition that makes it hard for you to work, volunteer, or participate in community activities.

You may fit this category if you:

- ✓ Have a significant or long-term medical condition
- ✓ Are recovering from major treatment or surgery
- ✓ Have a disability or functional limitation that affects daily activities
- ✓ Have a serious mental health condition or substance use disorder
- ✓ Need ongoing help with personal care or daily tasks

Short-Term Hardships

You may qualify for a temporary exemption if you are experiencing one of the following short-term hardships:

- ✓ Receiving inpatient hospital services, nursing facility services, services in an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities, inpatient psychiatric hospital services, or such other services of similar acuity, or

- ✓ Traveling outside of your community for yourself or a dependent for an extended period of time to receive medical services necessary to treat a serious or complex medical condition that are not available within your community of residence.

The same information that may be used to verify medical frailty is acceptable documentation for short-term hardships. If you need assistance verifying a short-term hardship, please contact your local DSS.

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