



CABINET FOR HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

MACE Income Verification

Understanding Seasonal vs. Non-Seasonal
Medicaid Work or Community Engagement Requirements

Medicaid Work or Community Engagement (MACE) Requirement

- A federal law is changing Medicaid rules starting on January 1, 2027
- If you are age 19–64, qualify for Medicaid based only on your income, and do not have an exemption, you must do the following to apply for or keep your Medicaid coverage:
 - Complete at least 80 hours per month of:
 - Work; or
 - Job training or a work program; or
 - Volunteering or community service; or
 - Going to school part-time; or
 - Any combination of the activities above that adds up to 80 hours
 - Go to school at least half-time including high school, college, or career and technical education; OR
 - Income of \$580 a month, or if your work is seasonal, income an average of \$580 over the last 6 months.

Note: Members who do not meet community engagement requirements cannot receive Advance Premium Tax Credits (APTCs) to help pay for Marketplace coverage.

Current CMS Guidance: [State Requirements to Establish Medicaid Community Engagement Requirements;](#)
[CMS Interim Final Rule – Medicaid Community Engagement](#)

Meeting MACE by Income

- Income is one of several ways individuals can meet the MACE requirement.
- To meet MACE by income, you must either (1) earn at least \$580 a month, or (2) if work is seasonal, earn an average of \$580 over the last 6 months.

Path 1: Standard Income

The member earns **\$580 or more per month** for the set period — the month before applying, or three months during the renewal period.

An individual qualifies if they earn \$580 or more in every month that is reviewed — one month when they apply, and three months at renewal.

Path 2: Seasonal Worker

Members identified as seasonal can meet the standard by **averaging their income** across 6 months, so higher-earning months help offset lower ones.

An individual qualifies as long as the average comes out to at least \$580 per month.

Non-Seasonal vs. Seasonal

Both paths use the same \$580 goal — they just count it differently.

	Non-Seasonal	Seasonal
Definition	Steady work a person does throughout the year	Work that happens only during part of the year like farm work, summer jobs, or holiday retail.
System Logic	Non-Seasonal is the default when no employment record is flagged as seasonal.	Used when a job is marked "seasonal" in the system and the person has seasonal pay.
Review Window	Single month	Rolling 6-month window
Application	Earn $\geq$ \$580 for the one month prior to application	Earn $\geq$ \$580 in any one month of the rolling window ending one month prior to application
Renewal	Earn $\geq$ \$580 for any 3 months in the renewal period	3 months $\geq$ \$580 OR - One month $\geq$ \$1,740 OR 6-month avg $\geq$ \$580

Non-Seasonal vs. Seasonal Examples

EXAMPLE 1

Consistent Earner

Month 1 **\$580**

Month 2 **\$600**

Month 3 **\$560**



Seasonal status: Not indicated

Outcome: Does not meet MACE requirement based on income as not seasonal and only 2 months at $\geq$ \$580

EXAMPLE 2

One Large Month (Non-Seasonal)

Month 1 **\$1,950**

Month 2 **\$0**

Month 3 **\$0**



Seasonal status: Not indicated

Outcome: Does not meet MACE requirement based on income as not seasonal and only 1 month at $\geq$ \$580

EXAMPLE 3

One Large Month (Seasonal)

Month 1 **\$0**

Month 2 **\$1,950**

Month 3 **\$0**



Seasonal status: Indicated

Outcome: Meets MACE requirement based on income as seasonal and $\geq$ \$1,740 in 1 month

EXAMPLE 4

Seasonal Worker

Month 1 **\$0**

Month 4 **\$500**

Month 2 **\$1,500**

Month 5 **\$0**

Month 3 **\$1,500**

Month 6 **\$0**



Seasonal status: Indicated

Outcome: Meets MACE requirement based on income as an average of $\geq$ \$580 across 6 months

Key Takeaways

1

Income is one of several ways to meet MACE

You can meet the requirement with income — but work hours, school, or volunteering also count.

2

Non-seasonal is checked one month at a time

Each month must reach \$580 on its own. A big month cannot make up for a low or empty month.

3

Seasonal work can be averaged

If a job is marked seasonal, pay is added up over 6 months. The person meets the rule if the average is at least \$580 — or if any one month is \$1,740 or more.

Questions?

