

# Impacts of H.R. 1 to MaineCare (Maine's Medicaid Program)

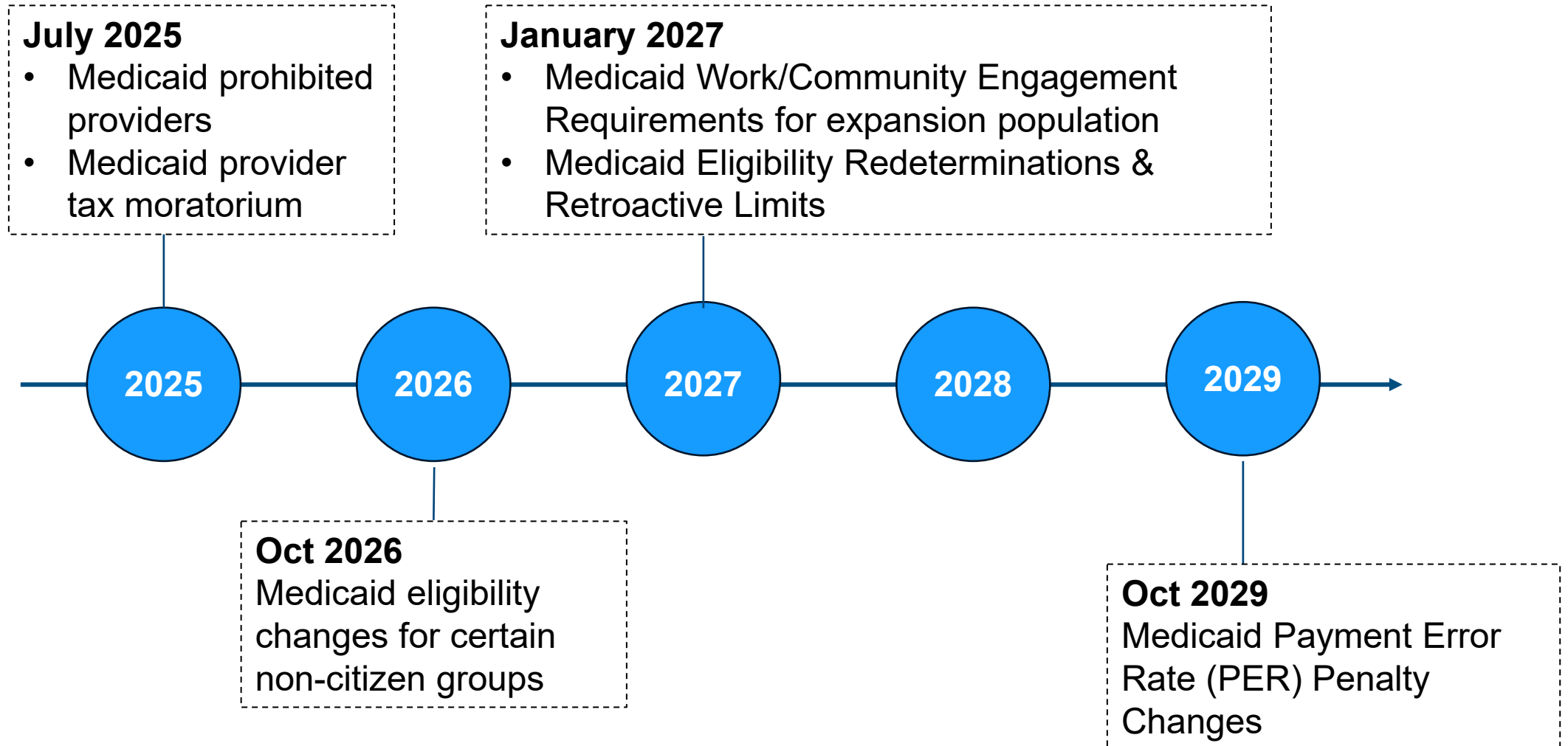
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Office of MaineCare Services  
October 7, 2025



# What does this mean for our beneficiaries today?

- **There are no changes for clients yet.** There are no reductions or changes to services MaineCare covers.
- **There are no immediate changes to MaineCare eligibility.** Automatic Renewals (Passive Renewals) will still happen.
- The earliest changes will start in **Fall 2026.**

# Summary H.R.1 Timeline for MaineCare



# MaineCare Work or Community Engagement Requirements



## January 2027

### **Who does this apply to?**

This applies to Medicaid Expansion members who newly apply, or upon existing renewal dates, beginning January 1, 2027

### **What is the requirement?**

Members must document 80 hours/month of work, volunteering, or be enrolled in at least a half-time educational program, or meet specific exclusion criteria.

# Exclusion Criteria for MaineCare Work or Community Engagement Requirements

Members who do not meet requirements or exclusion cannot receive subsidies through CoverME. Exclusion criteria encompasses a broad range of categories including people who are:

Pregnant

Parents or caregivers of a dependent under age 14 or who has a disability

Tribal members and Alaska Natives

Veterans with service connected disabilities

Have Substance Use Disorder (SUD)/ receiving defined SUD treatment

Medically frail or otherwise have special medical needs

Former foster youth under age 26

Currently incarcerated or have been released within the past 90 days

Family caregivers as defined in RAISE Family Caregivers Act

Compliant with TANF/SNAP work requirements

# MaineCare Work or Community Engagement Requirements – Added Details

## Required Outreach

- Starting by at least October 1, 2026 (3 months before implementation)

## Existing Data Sources

- States must use data they have access to for ex parte process to meet CE requirement or exclusion criteria

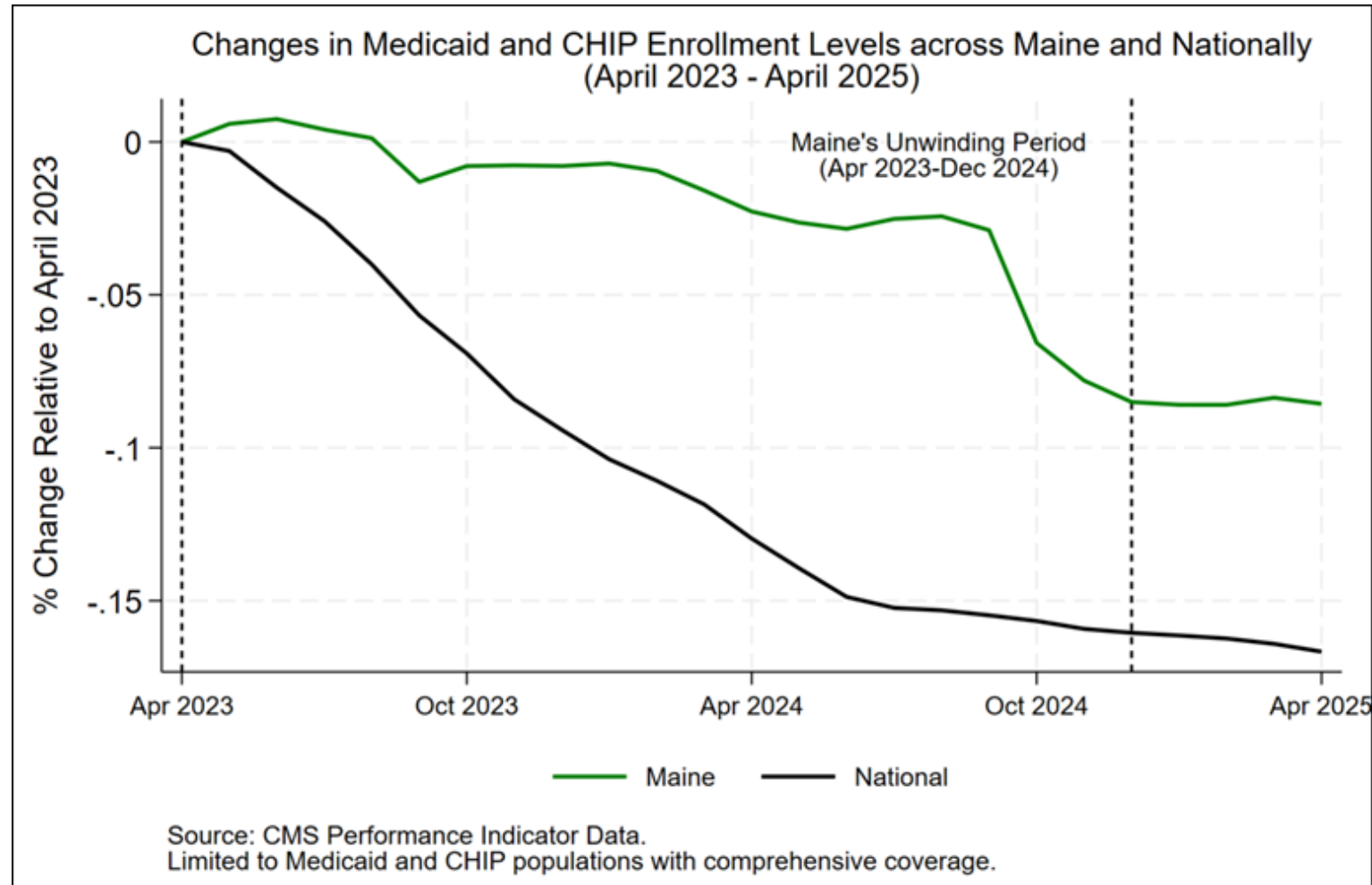
## Limited Funding

- There is limited funding available for states to implement.

## Good Faith Waiver

- States may apply to extend the implementation deadline.
- We are assessing.

# Lessons from Unwinding



# Eligibility Changes for Immigrant Groups



**October 2026**

**Eliminates federal coverage for certain immigrant groups** such as refugees, asylees, trafficking survivors, and certain parolees.

- **Still eligible for Emergency Services coverage** with a reduced federal match rate for this type of coverage for certain populations.
- **Excludes children and pregnant people**





## Broader Impacts

# Language for clients, beneficiaries, and partners

**Changes often require rule making which can take time:** The Department will notify the public of the expected implementation date of these changes and more information through a notice of proposed rulemaking.

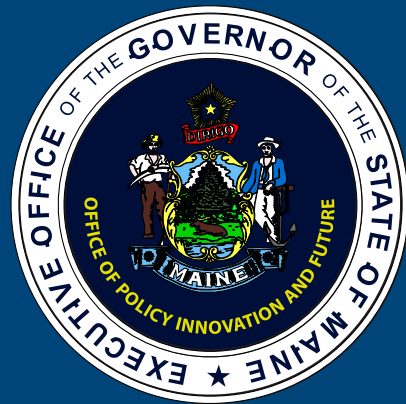
**The Department must always notify clients of changes to their eligibility:** Impacted individuals will receive a notice the month prior to any decrease in benefits.



# Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) & Maine

Public Information Webinar

September 2025



**RURAL HEALTH**  
TRANSFORMATION

# Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

- **Created by H.R. 1 (July 2025)**
  - Maine projected to lose ~\$5B in federal health funding over 10 years
  - Rural health providers at risk; higher costs, more uninsured
  - Federal initiative to bolster rural health
- **\$50B, time-limited funding (2026–2030)**
  - Distributed by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to states with approved applications
- **Distribution – two allocations**
  - \$25B allocated evenly across all 50 states
    - ~\$100M/year for the next 5 years for Maine
    - Plan must be approved by CMS to access funds
  - \$25B allocated to a subset of at least 14 states at CMS' discretion
- **There will be no “No-Cost Extensions”**
  - Unused funds within specified time limits will be redistributed to other states

# Federal Goals

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Make rural America healthy again

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Sustainable access

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Workforce development

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Innovative care

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Technology innovation

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# CMS RHTP Timeline



*Application  
Released*

**September 15:**  
Application released

**September 17:**  
Maine launches  
public engagement  
process

**September 23 & 24:**  
Informational webinars

*Application  
Formation*

**October 1:** Maine’s  
online public comment  
period through website  
closes

**Mid-Late October:**  
Community Listening  
Sessions

*Submission  
Deadline*

**November 5:**  
Application due

*Awardee  
Decisions*

**December 31:**  
Awardee decisions

*Monitoring  
Begins*

**2026+:** Continuous  
monitoring & support  
from CMS

# Thank you

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