



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Office of Medicaid**  
[www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth)

## Eligibility Letter 252

**DATE:** January 2026

**TO:** MassHealth Staff

**FROM:** Elizabeth LaMontagne, Chief Operating Officer

**RE:** **Revised Regulation 130 CMR 502: *Health Care Reform: MassHealth: The Eligibility Process***

### Background

MassHealth has updated 130 CMR 502: *Health Care Reform: MassHealth: The Eligibility Process*.

This regulation amendment includes the following changes.

- **Retroactive eligibility/Start dates:** MassHealth members may receive retroactive coverage up to the first day of the third month before the month of application if covered medical services were received during such period, and the applicant would have been eligible at the time services were provided (currently only available to certain groups). Otherwise, the coverage start date defaults to the first day of the month of application.
- **Family Assistance and Premium Assistance:** MassHealth is removing obsolete language, as Family Assistance is no longer the only benefit that can potentially receive Premium Assistance.
- **Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Update:** MassHealth is adding CommonHealth to the coverage types available during a Hospital Presumptive Eligibility period.
- **Ex Parte Renewals:** MassHealth performs annual autorenewals at the individual member level instead of by household.
- **Utilization of potential other benefits:** Under federal law, MassHealth is eliminating the requirement that individuals apply for other cash benefits to which they may be entitled as a condition of Medicaid eligibility (e.g., Social Security, retirement benefits).

These regulations are effective February 13, 2026.

### MassHealth Website

This Eligibility Letter is available on the MassHealth website at [MassHealth Eligibility Letters](#).

### New Material

The pages listed here contain new or revised language.

**Regulation 130 CMR 502: *Health Care Reform: MassHealth: The Eligibility Process***

Pages 1 through 24

### Obsolete Material

The pages listed here are no longer in effect.

**Regulation 130 CMR 502: *Health Care Reform: MassHealth: The Eligibility Process***

Pages 502.000 through 502.007 — transmitted by Eligibility Letter 229

Pages 502.000 through 502.008 — transmitted by Eligibility Letter 220

**Please note:** Eligibility Letters no longer include the updated regulation pages. Updated regulations may be found on the particular [member eligibility regulations](#) page.

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