***Commonwealth of Massachusetts***

**Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
*Office of Medicaid***

www.mass.gov/masshealth

**Eligibility Operations Memo 23-28**

**December 2023**

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Heather Rossi, Director of Eligibility Policy [signature of Heather Rossi]

RE: **Updated: Changes to Streamline MassHealth CommonHealth Eligibility for Adults**

# Background

## In 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services approved [MassHealth’s 1115 Demonstration Waiver](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/1115-masshealth-demonstration-waiver). This waiver included updated eligibility rules for adults 19–64 years of age who are determined to have a disability and are applying for MassHealth CommonHealth.

## Before the waiver, a person applying for MassHealth who was determined to have a disability and had income above 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) had to meet a one-time deductible or be employed at least 40 hours per month (or have been employed at least 240 hours in the six months before the application date).

# Updated CommonHealth Adult Rules

### The MassHealth system was updated to allow adult MassHealth members with disabilities, who have an income above 150% of the FPL and are 19–20 years old or who have an income above 133% of the FPL and are 21–64 years old, to be eligible to receive MassHealth CommonHealth benefits without having to meet a one-time deductible or be employed at least 40 hours per month. The change better streamlines eligibility for this population and removes additional barriers to qualify for MassHealth benefits.

### Please note that members must continue to meet all other requirements for MassHealth CommonHealth under [130 CMR 505.004](https://www.mass.gov/regulations/130-CMR-505000-masshealth-coverage-types).

# Questions

If you have any questions about this memo, please have your MEC designee contact the Policy Hotline.