



MEPD and TW Bulletin 25-11

Date: June 13, 2025

To: Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors
Policy Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2106

Subject: Requirement to Apply for Other Benefits

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins>.

Requirement to Apply for Other Benefits

Background

Based on federal guidance, Medicaid applicants and recipients are no longer required to apply for other benefits as a condition of eligibility. To comply with these requirements, states must implement this policy no later than June 3, 2025.

Current Policy

Medicaid Programs

Medicaid applicants and recipients must apply for and obtain all other benefits they may be entitled to receive. Other benefits include annuities, pensions, retirement and disability benefits, Veteran Affairs (VA) benefits, Social Security benefits, Railroad Retirement benefits, worker's compensation payments and unemployment compensation.

If a person is not receiving a benefit they may potentially be eligible for, staff must notify the person in writing of the requirement. They must apply for the other benefits and provide verification within the required timeframes for each program.

([MEPDH D-6300, Application for Other Benefits Requirement](#) and [TWH A-1311, Requirement to Pursue Income](#))

Current Process

Staff manually notify applicants and recipients in writing of the requirement to apply for other benefits or pursue other income and set a special review to verify. The notice tells the person they have:

- 30 days to apply for the other benefits for MEPD programs, and
- 90 days to pursue other income for TW programs.

If the person fails to provide verification that they have applied for other benefits or does not show good cause for not doing so, Medicaid eligibility is terminated.

New Policy

Medicaid Programs

Medicaid applicants and recipients are no longer required to apply for other benefits or pursue other income as a condition of eligibility. Staff are no longer required to notify applicants and recipients of the requirement to apply for other benefits.

This change does not affect the existing system functionality or the policy requirement to apply for other benefits for TANF.

Automation

Changes to TIERS are scheduled to be implemented with TIERS Release 120.1 on July 12, 2025.

A CPM has been created and will be released soon. It can be used until the system changes are deployed.

Note: Until the CPM is released, staff should document in the case comments that "Medicaid applicants and recipients are no longer required to apply for other benefits or pursue other income as a condition for eligibility."

Correspondence

The Form TF0001, Notice of Case Action, will reflect the following language when the person indicates they are a veteran or surviving spouse or child of a veteran.

As a veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the surviving spouse or child of a veteran, you may be eligible for benefits from the Veterans Administration. To learn more, please visit the Texas Veterans Portal at veterans.portal.texas.gov or call the VA Benefits Hotline at 800-827-1000.

This is only to inform applicants and recipients of potential benefits they may be entitled to receive.

Handbook

The MEPDH is currently scheduled to be updated in the September 2025 revision.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the October 2025 revision.

Training

Training titled R120.1 General Information, Lesson 1, will be made available in PALMS on July 3, 2025. A broadcast will be sent with further details.

Effective Date

This policy was effective June 3, 2025.