



County Health Equity Forum



Anne Arundel County
Department of Health
Office of Assessment and Planning



Office of Health Equity and Racial Justice (HERJ)
Monday, September 28, 2026, 3:00-4:00 PM (EST)



Anne Arundel County
Department of Health

Welcome

Thank you for joining today's Health Equity Forum!

Purpose: Brings together health equity champions who live, work, play, worship, and learn in Anne Arundel County for information-sharing, idea exchange, and meaningful conversations about social drivers of health and efforts to unlock opportunity for everyone to achieve their best health.

For online participants:

- Mute your microphone to minimize background noises.
- Use any or all of the below options for questions, comments, responses, and reactions:
 - Chat feature
 - Raise Hand icon via the Reactions feature to let the presenters know you want to speak. *Before you speak, please share your name and organization.*
 - Email us at: healthequity@aacounty.org

Please note: If you are only participating by phone, it is recommended that you use the Zoom App.

For in-person participants:

- Use any or all of the below options for questions, comments, and responses:
 - During Q&A, let the presenters know you want to speak. *Before you speak, please share your name and organization.*
 - Email us at: healthequity@aacounty.org

Please note: This hybrid meeting is being recorded.



Chat with Us!



React to the Forum!



Anne Arundel County
Department of Health

HERJ Office Team



Alexander Bravo
Bilingual Community Health Worker



Keith Fielder
Community Health Worker



Kristin Coleman, MPH
Health Policy Analyst
Office of Assessment & Planning



Jazmyn Covington, DrPH
Health Equity & Racial Justice Program
Manager



Raymond Medley, Jr.
HERJ Programs &
Advocacy Coordinator



County Health Equity Forum Agenda

Monday, September 28, 2026, 3:00-4:00 PM (EST)

3:00 PM	Welcome • Dr. Tonii Gedin, RN, DNP, Health Officer
3:10 PM	Medicaid Updates • Kristina Dickinson, Deputy Director, Family Health Services
3:40 PM	Walktober • Donna Perkins, Director, Office of Assessment and Planning
3:45 PM	Respiratory Vaccination Reminders • Jennifer Schneider, RN, Director, Disease Prevention and Management
3:45 PM	Audience Questions • Raymond Medley, Health Equity Advocacy Coordinator
3:55 PM	Closing Remarks and Reminders



Anne Arundel County
Department of Health

Dr. Tonii Gedin, RN, DNP



I'd love to continue this
conversation.

Please email me at
hdgedi20@aacounty.org

Health Officer

Anne Arundel County Department of Health

Anne Arundel Medicaid Resources:

<https://www.aahealth.org/medicaidchanges>



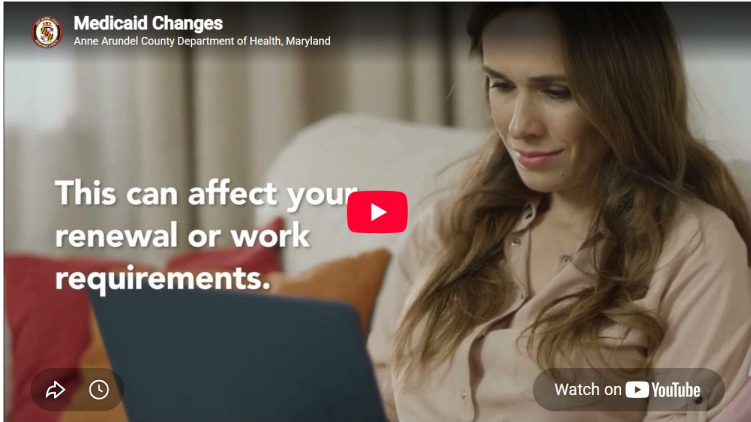
Anne Arundel County
Department of Health

[Services](#) [News](#) [Jobs](#)

Medicaid Changes

Family Health

- Aging and Disability Services
- Asthma and Lead
- Dental Health Services
- Healthcare and Insurance Access
- Healthy Pregnancies and Healthy Babies
- Infant, Children and Adolescent Services
- Medicaid Changes**
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program



Medicaid Changes
Anne Arundel County Department of Health, Maryland

This can affect your renewal or work requirements.

Watch on YouTube

Stay Covered, Anne Arundel.
Important Changes to Your Medicaid.

Support for County Residents:

<https://www.aacounty.org/federal-impacts>



Services Go

Home

Support for Residents Navigating Recent Federal Changes

If you're facing challenges due to recent changes in federal programs or policies, you're not alone, and help is available

Whether you're experiencing difficulties with housing, healthcare, employment, or other essential needs, Anne Arundel County Government is here to connect you with local resources and services that can support you through this challenging time.

I need help with my job search, where can I look?

The [Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation](#) offers a wide range of services designed to meet your unique career needs, including a [featured jobs list](#), [hiring fairs and career readiness workshops](#), and other [reemployment assistance](#) including individual career coaching, resume and interview preparation, and skills training.

Individuals can also receive resume help, career guidance, a skills assessment and other offerings through the state's [American Job Centers](#) and the [Professional Outplacement Assistance Center](#). The Maryland Department of Labor also has a [list of upcoming recruitments and job fairs](#).

Anne Arundel County is dedicated to ensuring federal employees can easily apply for open Anne Arundel County Government positions. For a list of current job openings with the county, [click here](#).

Residents can also take advantage of many free and valuable educational services available at the [Anne Arundel County Public Library](#), including resume help and interview coaching with JobNow, skills training through LinkedIn Learning and Udemy courses, Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots for checkout, and other resources.

I need work or volunteer hours for federal benefits. Where can I find volunteer opportunities?

Volunteer opportunities with county agencies include:

- Assisting a [local library branch](#) with books, crafts or projects
- Volunteering at [local parks](#)
- Becoming a [youth sports coach](#)
- Assisting with [Department of Aging & Disabilities](#) programs
- Helping the [police](#) or [fire](#) departments
- Assisting citizens [register to vote](#)



Anne Arundel County
Department of Health

Kristina Dickinson



I'd love to continue this
conversation.

Please email me at
kristinadickinson@aacounty.org

Deputy Director, Bureau of Family Health Services
Anne Arundel County Department of Health

Medicaid:

Federal Updates and Changes

Kristina Dickinson

Deputy Director
Family Health



What is Medical Assistance? (Medicaid or MA)

Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that provides **health and long-term care coverage** to low-income individuals, pregnant women, the elderly, and people living with disabilities.

- As of January 2026, the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, covered 1,474,343 people
- These consumers fall into different “categories” or coverage groups with different eligibility requirements.

Eligibility for Medicaid based on income:

To qualify for Medicaid coverage, you must be under the age of 65, a U.S. citizen or have a qualifying immigration status, who has lived in the U.S. for five or more years, be a resident of Maryland and meet certain income.

For example:

- A single person can make up to \$1,835 per month and qualify for Medicaid.
- A family of four can make up to \$3,795 per month and qualify for Medicaid.
 - If you're pregnant or have children, you may earn more and still qualify.

How to Apply for Medical Assistance (MA)

Enrollment is **year round**. There are three ways to **apply for MA based on income**

1 In person at the Department of Health's Medical Assistance Health Care Enrollment Centers

Annapolis Health Center

3 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Annapolis, MD 21401

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

North County

791 Aquahart Rd,

Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

- Customers can make an appointment by calling **443-510-7784** or by visiting AAHealth.org/apply-health-insurance-or-medical-assistance

2 • By calling the Maryland Health Connection (MHC) at **1-855-642-8572**

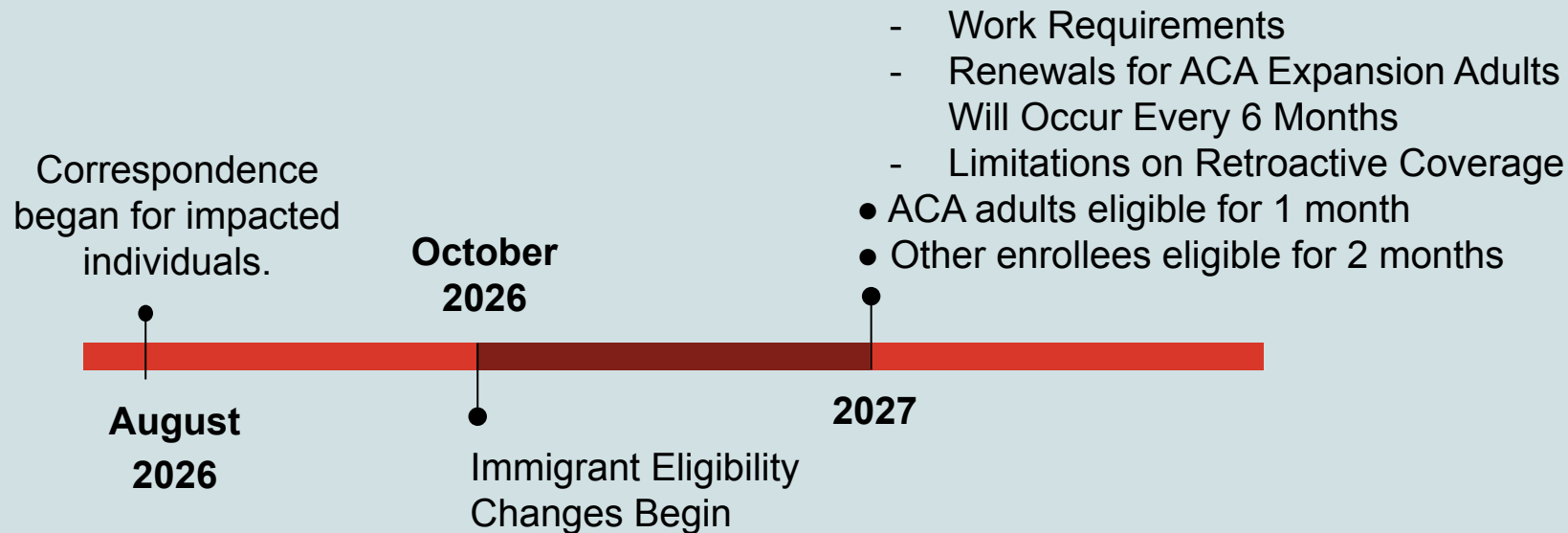
3 Online at marylandhealthconnection.gov

Aged, blind and disabled population apply at benefits.maryland.gov/home

HR 1 Bill Overview

- Passed by Congress and signed by President Trump on July 4, 2025
- Includes major changes to programs like Medicaid and SNAP, as well as qualified health plan coverage through the Maryland Health Connection

HR 1 Implementation Timeline



Immigration Eligibility Changes

Effective October 1, 2026

- Certain **immigrants are no longer eligible** for Medicaid, including refugees, asylees, immigrants granted parole for at least one year, and certain victims of abuse and trafficking
- **Medicaid coverage is now limited** to U.S. Citizens and specific Eligible Non-Citizens (ENC), which include:
 - Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs or green card holders) who meet or are exempt from the five-year rule
 - Cuban and Haitian non-citizens
 - Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants
- Approximately **16,000 Maryland residents and 700 Anne Arundel County residents may lose coverage as a result**

Transition and Case Handling

Cases approved prior to October 1, 2026

- Beginning mid-August 2026 through September 2026, redeterminations for non-pregnant adults occurred. Any case not meeting the new guidelines will terminate coverage on 9/30/2026.

Notices

- Terminated recipients received notification in August and September.

HR 1 Eligibility Impact for Children and Pregnant Women

States may provide Medicaid/CHIP to lawfully-residing children and pregnant individuals without a five-year waiting period in additional categories through an option created under the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA §214).

Maryland will continue to cover children and pregnant women in these categories after 10/1/2026 *(must meet income, residency, and identity requirements):*

- Legal Permanent Resident
- Cuban/Haitian Entrants
- Compact of Free Association nations
- Refugees and Asylees
- Those paroled into the U.S. for at least one year
- Those granted withholding of deportation or removal and Humanitarian Parolees
- American Indians born abroad
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees
- Veterans (active or inactive) includes (Spouse, Unremarried Surviving Spouse, or Dependant Children)
- Trafficking survivors
- Iraqi/Afghan Special Immigration Status
- Amerasians
- Survivors of domestic violence with a pending or approved application for lawful status under the Violence Against Women Act

Maryland Healthy Babies Equity Act

- Healthy Babies provides Medicaid coverage to individuals who do not qualify for coverage based on immigration status.
- Coverage is available during pregnancy and for four months during the postpartum period
 - In SFY 25, Healthy Babies served 16,038 individuals Statewide
- HR 1 does not change the federal authority that permits states to operate programs like Healthy Babies.
- The Healthy Babies program will not be impacted by changes taking effect 10/1/26

Individuals can **apply for this coverage** at the Department of Health's Medical Assistance Health Care Enrollment Centers. For more information and to make an appointment, call 443-510-7784.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Medical Assistance for emergency medical services (EMS) is available to undocumented or ineligible immigrants who meet all technical and financial Medicaid requirements, excluding citizenship or alien status.

As a limited form of medical assistance, EMS covers hospital-rendered emergency care for undocumented, non-qualified immigrants. Covered services include, but are not limited to:

- Dialysis
- Certain cancer treatments
- AIDS treatment
- End-stage renal disease

EMS also covers other medical emergencies characterized by acute symptoms of sufficient severity—including severe pain—where the lack of immediate medical attention could reasonably result in:

- Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy
- Serious impairment to bodily functions
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Eligibility for Emergency Medicaid remains unchanged by HR 1.
- Immigrants affected by HR 1 changes who lose standard Medicaid eligibility on 10/1/26 will retain eligibility for EMS.
- Individuals must submit a new application for emergency Medicaid following each emergency event. Approval for emergency services may be granted for up to 13 months.

How to Apply for Emergency Medicaid

- Patient would visit a local emergency room and receive care.
- The emergency room will provide them with an application.
- The patient would bring the application to their local health department.
- The local health department would assist them with the remainder of the Emergency Medicaid application process. For more information and to make an appointment, please call the Department of Health's Medical Assistance Health Care Enrollment Center at 443-510-7784.

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

Refugee Medical Assistance is:

- Federally funded, short-term health coverage for newly arrived
 - Refugees
 - Asylees
 - Other similar humanitarian populations
- Offers benefits similar to Medicaid, typically for up to 4 months after arrival
- Intended to help with initial medical screenings and healthcare needs

The Maryland Office For Refugees and Asylees (MORA) administers RMA in Maryland

- MORA is a part of Department of Human Services
- To get more information about MORA an applicant could:
 - Call 410-767-7514
 - Visit <https://dhs.maryland.gov/maryland-office-for-refugees-and-asylees>

Work Requirements(Community Engagement) Effective January 1, 2027

Section 71119 establishes Medicaid Work Requirements.

- Requires states to implement work requirements as a condition of Medicaid eligibility for **ACA expansion adults**.

H.R. 1 Changes Target ACA Adult Group

Policy Impact: This coverage category will experience the most significant changes under H.R. 1.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) expanded Medicaid coverage to adults with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level starting in 2014 in Maryland.

326,000+

Maryland adults are enrolled in Medicaid through the ACA

23,000+

AA County adults are enrolled in Medicaid through the ACA

Who Is an ACA Adult?

Coverage Group	Age Range	Parent/Caretaker Status?	Income Range
AO2	19-64	Adults without Dependent Children	Maximum 138% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
AO3	19-64	Parents and caretaker relatives with dependent children	124-138% FPL

Work Requirements(Community Engagement)

Work requirements **apply only to applicable individuals** who **do not meet an exclusion or exception.**

- 1 The first step is the consumer will be assessed if they meet a specified exclusion. This occurs during the month of their application or renewal. If they meet an exclusion, work reporting requirements don't need to be checked. If an individual does not meet an exclusion, they are an applicable individual who must satisfy the work reporting requirements.
- 2 The second step is assessing whether the individual meets a mandatory exception or an optional short-term hardship exception or they have demonstrated compliance with a qualifying activity.

Work Requirements(Community Engagement) Specified Excluded Individuals (SEI)

- Medically frail individuals (must show that the condition significantly impairs their ability to work)
- Participants in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment/rehab program
- Veterans with a disability
- Parents, guardians, caretaker relatives, or family caregivers of a dependent child 13 and under, or of a disabled individual
- Members of a household receiving SNAP and not exempt from SNAP work requirements
- Individuals compliant with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work reporting requirements

Work Requirements(Community Engagement) Specified Excluded Individuals (SEI)

(Continued)

- Individuals compliant with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work reporting requirements
- AI/AN (American Indian, Alaskan Native)
- Former foster care youth under age 26
- Inmates of a public institution
- Pregnant individuals or those entitled to postpartum Medicaid coverage

During 2027 SEI status is able to be verified with self-attestation for all SEI except VA 100% disability and Guardianship. As of 2028 self-attestation is limited.

Work Requirements(Community Engagement)

Mandatory Exception

Federal law recognizes certain circumstances in which an individual remains subject to Work Requirements but is deemed compliant for a specific review month. The individual satisfies work requirements without needing to demonstrate work.

Mandatory Exceptions are Evaluated in Lookback Month(s):

- Under age 19, over age 64
- Entitled or enrolled in Medicare Part A or enrolled in Medicare Part B
- Described in a mandatory eligibility group (parents/caretaker relatives within certain incomes, individuals receiving SSI)
- Incarcerated at some point in the three-month period prior to the relevant month
- Specified excluded individuals (if relevant during the lookback month)

Work Requirements(Community Engagement) Optional Short-Term Hardship Exceptions

Federal regulations permit states to recognize **temporary circumstances** that prevent an individual from meeting Work Requirements:

- Receiving inpatient or institutional care - individual must request an exception
- Travel outside one's community for medical care for themselves or a dependent - must request an exception
- Living in a county with a federal emergency or disaster declaration
- Living in a county with a high local unemployment

Work Requirements(Community Engagement) Qualifying Activities

Qualifying activities evaluated in lookback months include:

- **Work** - at least 80 hours/month, in-kind and unpaid work is counted alongside traditional paid employment
- **Community service** - at least 80 hours
- **Job Training Participation** - at least 80 hours
- **Educational enrollment** - at least half time
- **Any combination of the above listed activities - total of at least 80 hours**
- Income of at least \$580/month or for seasonal workers, an average \$580/month income over a six-month period.
 - If income is less than \$580 per month - it can be converted into countable hours by dividing the monthly hours by the federal minimum wage.

Important note - a consumer is unable to make up missed work requirements (community engagement) hours from previous months.

Work Requirements(Community Engagement) Review Period and Verification

- The review period is the timeframe that a state uses to determine whether an applicable individual has demonstrated work requirements.
- Maryland is utilizing a **one month review period for new applications** and **one month** within any of the prior 6 months during the **renewal period**.

Verification

- Electronic data sources will be used to verify work requirements (community engagement) participation. If this cannot be done, documentation will be requested. For exceptions, these will be verified through existing data or verified electronically through a consumer attestation based on screener. If it cannot be verified electronically, physical documentation verifying the exemption may be required.
- If it is unable to be verified that a consumer has an exclusion, exception or is in compliance - they will receive a **notice of non-compliance giving them 30 days** to make a satisfactory showing.

Limits on Retroactive Coverage Effective January 1, 2027

Prior to HR 1, enrollees could get up to three months of retroactive Medicaid coverage

With the implementation of HR 1,

- **ACA expansion adults** are limited to **one month of retroactive coverage**, and
- **All other enrollees** are limited to **two months retroactive coverage**.

6 Months Renewals for ACA Adults Effective January 1, 2027

- ACA expansion adults are now subject to Medicaid **eligibility checks every six months to renew their coverage, as opposed to annual redeterminations**
- Individuals who are American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) are **exempt** from the six-month renewal requirement and will continue to receive renewals on the standard 12-month cycle
- Individuals who submit new applications in January 2027, will receive **six-month** certification periods and will be subject to Community Engagement requirements.
- The first cohort subject to the new renewal cycle will be individuals with renewals due **February 2027**.

6 Months Renewals for ACA Adults Consumer Notifications

ACA Expansion Adults with renewals due in February will receive the following notifications:

- August 25-27, 2026 - CMS mandatory outreach (notice, email and text) - consumers will be notified that changes are coming
- November 19, 2026 - consumers will receive an email and text with renewal reminders (120 days)
- January 5-10, 2027 - consumers will receive a notice, email and text for February redeterminations (45 days)
- February 1-10, 2027 - consumers will receive a notice, email and text for a 30 day redeterminations reminder
- February 20-25, 2027 - termination notices will be sent

“How Can I Help”

- Get the word out to your network
- Urge consumers to update contact information
- Urge consumers to watch for notices from **Maryland Health Connection**
- Share resources from the consumer/provider/employer toolkits (see next page)
- Assist your networks in understanding which exemptions they may be eligible for

Resources

- [Is My Medicaid Going to Change? - MDH Website](#)
- [Medicaid Changes Two Pager](#)
- [Fact Sheet - Impact of Congressional Budget on Maryland Medicaid Program](#)
- [Maryland Health Connection - Medicaid Check-In](#)
- [Maryland Medicaid Data Port](#)
- [Provider and Employer Outreach Toolkit](#)
- [Anne Arundel County Department of Health's Medicaid Changes Website](#)

Contact Information



AAHealth.org

Improving Health Together

Kristina Dickinson, MPA

Deputy Director

Family Health

3 Harry S Truman Parkway,
Annapolis, MD 21401



Phone:

410-222-4111



Fax:

410-222-4533



Email:

kristinadickinson@aacounty.org



Anne Arundel County
Department of Health

Donna Perkins



I'd love to continue this
conversation.

Please email me at
hdperk11@aacounty.org

**Director, Office of Assessment and
Planning**

Anne Arundel County Department of Health



6 week Challenge

September 21 - November 1
Register by September 30th!



- Scan the code or go to [HealthyAnneArundel.org](https://healthyannearundel.org) to register.
<https://healthyannearundel.10kaday.com/#/register>
- Get your FREE challenge toolkit! (Email HealthyAnneArundel@aacounty.org for pick up location)
- Set your own daily movement goal.
- Walk, roll, or move where and when you want.
- Walk on your own or join a team!
- Log your steps, movement, and activities in the app or on the website.
- Daily tips and recipes!
- Prize drawings throughout the challenge!

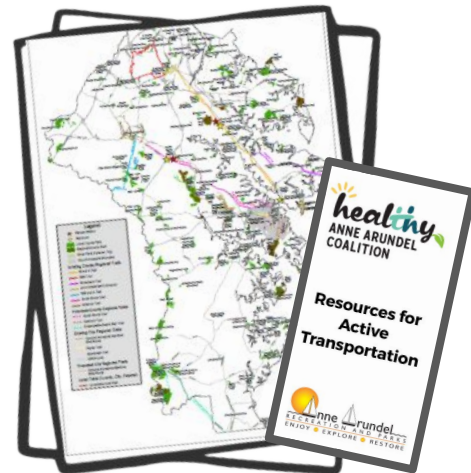
Where to walk for **WALKTOBER**

- **Community Walks**

- Hikes, walks, and more through Recreation and Parks
 - Infant/ Toddler Hike Tuesdays at Quiet Waters, 11 - 11:30 am
 - Jug Bay Bird Walk, monthly, first Saturday, 7 - 10 am
 - Family Nature Walk - Fort Smallwood Park, monthly, first Monday, 12 - 1pm
 - Details at aacounty.org/recreation-parks
- Chesapeake Children's Museum "Weekly Critters Walk"
 - Thursdays at 10:30 am (\$8)
 - Spanish presentation available
 - Register at theccm.org/
- Walk Maryland Day
 - October 7, 2026

- **Resource Guides available**

- Pick one up at your local Library or Ranger Station





Anne Arundel County
Department of Health

Vaccination Clinics Schedule

Jennifer A. Schneider, MS, RN



I'd love to continue this
conversation.
Please email me at
hdschn00@aacounty.org

Director
Bureau of Disease Prevention and Management

MDH Respiratory Vaccine Recommendations (2026–2027)

Statewide guidance aligned with AAP, AAFP, and ACOG standards under the Maryland Vax Act

COVID-19

Children

- 6–23 months: Recommended for all
- 2–18 years: Recommended if high-risk or desired

Adults

- Age 19+: Recommended (especially 65+)
- Age 65+: 2nd dose after 6 months

Special Populations

- Pregnant / postpartum individuals
- Immunocompromised (6 mos+)

Influenza

Universal Access

- Everyone 6 months and older

Adults 65+

- High-dose, adjuvanted, recombinant, or mRNA formulations preferred

Special Populations

- Pregnant & postpartum individuals
- Immunocompromised (6 mos+): High-dose/recombinant preferred; live vaccines contraindicated

RSV

Infants and Children

- Under 8 mos: Monoclonal antibodies (nirsevimab/clesrovimab)
- 8–19 mos: High-risk group dose

Pregnant Individuals

- Abrysvo vaccine (Wks 32–36)
- **Updated Window:** Sept 1 – Mar 1

Older Adults

- 50–74 with high-risk conditions; all 75+

Key Coverage and Access Details (MD Vax Act): Insurers must cover all routine state-recommended immunizations with \$0 out-of-pocket cost. Pharmacists are authorized to administer recommended vaccines to anyone age 3+ without a prescription.



Questions



**Have questions for
our presenters?**

**Add them to the chat, or
let us know when we get
to the audience questions
portion of the panel.**

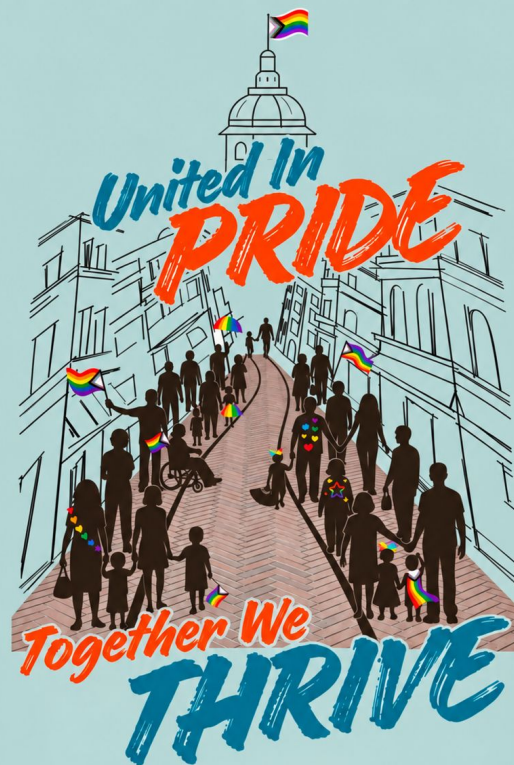
Upcoming Events

The Pride Parade
St. Johns College
10/3/26

11am to 6pm

For more information visit

<https://www.annapolispride.org/>



Date: 10/03/2026

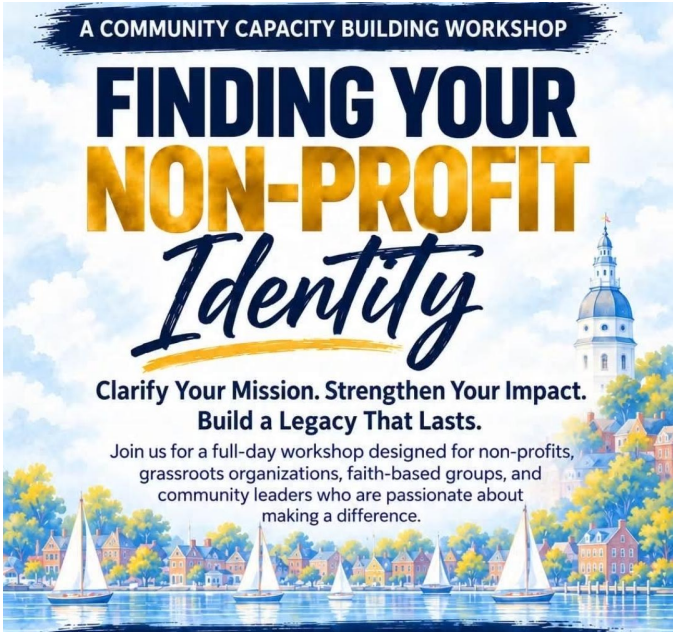
Event Start Time: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Vendor Setup Time: 10:30 AM

Location: St. Johns College
Calvert and Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Upcoming Events

Registration is free. To learn more or register, contact Adetola Ajayi at (410) 972-6257 or aoajayi@annapolis.gov



A COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

FINDING YOUR NON-PROFIT *Identity*

Clarify Your Mission. Strengthen Your Impact.
Build a Legacy That Lasts.

Join us for a full-day workshop designed for non-profits, grassroots organizations, faith-based groups, and community leaders who are passionate about making a difference.

 **September 30, 2026**
10:00 AM–2:00 PM

 **PIP MOYER RECREATION CENTER**
273 Hilltop Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403



Upcoming Events

Registration Required : [Registration Link](#)



Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Crafts
Music
Food
Community

Where: Thursday, October 15th
Time: 5-7PM
Where: Georgetown East ES

SCAN HERE to register
by Oct 7th



PLEASE RETURN RSVP BY OCTOBER 7TH
TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

STUDENT NAME _____
PARENT NAME _____
NUMBER OF ATTENDEES _____

For questions email Ms. Walker: tcwalker@aacps.org

AACPS Strategic Plan 2018-2025
Approved by Board of Education
AACPS
Asian American Pacific Islander Partnership
for Children, Youth & Families



Registration Required : [Registration Link](#)

Community Wellness Day



A family learns about car seat safety.

Community Wellness Day is a free, family-friendly community event hosted annually by University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center. Activities include health screenings, education tables, kids' activities and more.

Join us for our next free health and resource fair!

**Saturday, October 24, 2026
10 am to 12 pm**

FY27 Youth Leadership Conference

Tuesday: October 27, 2026

Time: 10:00am-2:15pm

Location: Northeast High School

Interested in Vending?: Contact Justin Noel -
hdnoel02@aacounty.org



Anne Arundel County
Department of Health

Join us **October 26, 2026** for our
Next Health Equity Forum
at 3:00pm



HealthEquity@aacounty.org



AAHealthEquity on
Facebook

AASaludEquidad on
Facebook



Save the Date!

End-of-year Health Equity Forum

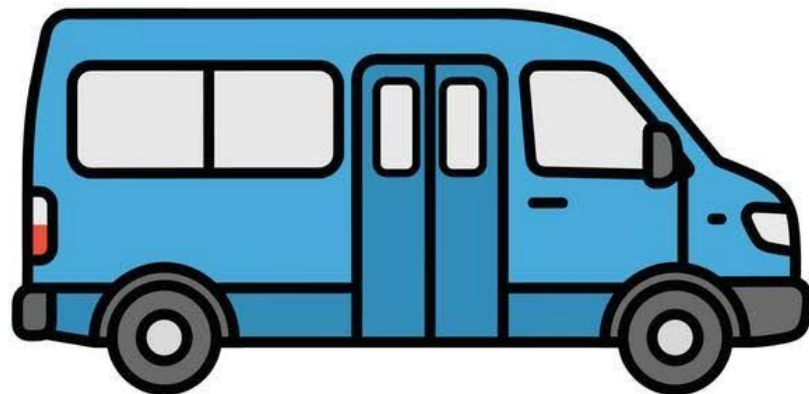
December 14th, 2026

In-person at Annapolis Library
2pm-4pm

Going Mobile

Do you offer mobile services or
resources in Anne Arundel County?

Contact Jazmyn Covington
(hdcovi25@aacounty.org) to be featured



Thank You



IMPROVING HEALTH TOGETHER