

Medicaid Work Requirements: Alaska

Operational briefing for state Medicaid leadership

61K

adults in Alaska are estimated to be subject to the 80-hour-per-month work requirement starting **December 31, 2026**. About **36K** are projected to lose Medicaid coverage by 2034 — most not because they fail to work, but because they can't clear the six-month renewal paperwork.

SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION

61K

61,244 adults

PROJECTED LOSS BY 2034

36K

35,570 people

EX PARTE CAPABILITY

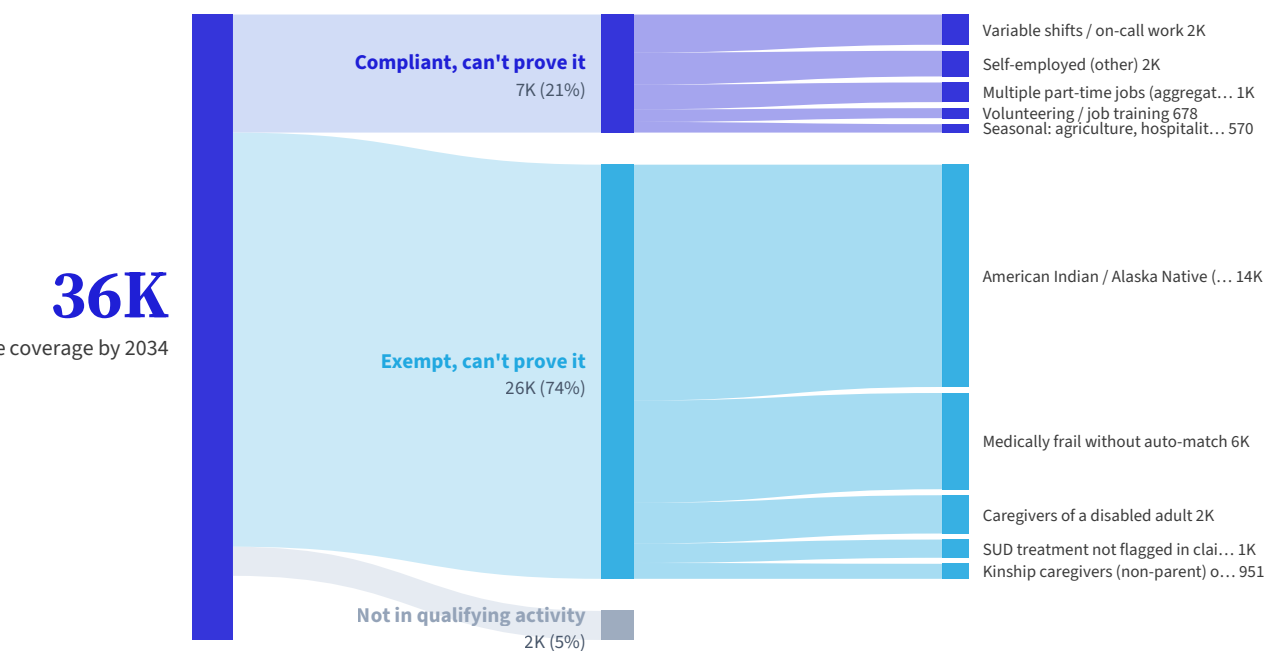
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This brief has five parts: why your losses will look the way they do, where verification will fail hardest, how capable your state already is at automatic verification, and what to do before the deadline.

Why your state's losses will look the way they do

Our bottom-up model projects **35,570** Alaska adults will lose Medicaid by 2034 under this provision. Most are not losing it because they aren't working. They lose it because the verification system can't confirm what's already true about them. In Alaska, the single largest at-risk group is **American Indian / Alaska Native (tribal exemption)** (about 14K).



Each subgroup is sized bottom-up from ACS PUMS, SAMHSA, BJS, and the academic Section 1115 work-requirement literature; the full parameter set is in the methodology on the last page. Every county, with subject count and projected loss, is in the CSV download.

Ex parte verification capability

Ex parte verification confirms an enrollee's hours or exemption against data the state already holds, so they never have to prove it themselves. It is the single biggest lever on the loss number above, and it has to be built before December 31, 2026. Here is how Alaska scores today.



Observed ex parte	60 / 100	Realized auto-renewal rate, CMS unwinding data 2023–2026 (50% of composite)
Data sources	55 / 100	Work-requirement-specific feeds (35% of composite): wage 50%, frailty 30%, other 20%
Core capability	18 / 100	Vendor-tier plumbing, shown for context (not in the composite)

The 0–100 composite leads with Alaska's observed ex parte rate: the share of Medicaid renewals it actually auto-completed during the 2023–2026 unwinding (CMS eligibility-processing data), a realized measure of whether it can clear an enrollee without making them act. That carries 50%. Data sources (the work-requirement-specific feeds income renewals didn't test: UI wage match, Medicaid claims and behavioral-health MCO, and the rest of the auto-match feeds) carry 35%, and documented prior Section 1115 work-requirement churn carries 15%. Eligibility system: **ARIES (planned migration)**.

Higher scores mean more enrollees can be verified against existing records without re-proving status. We don't publish a per-state predicted churn rate: the gap between "data source available" and "data source operationally integrated by the December 2026 deadline" is large and not yet observable. The score moves through operational work in 2026, not through anything that happens after the rule activates.

What to do before December 31, 2026

- 1 **Ex parte plumbing matters more than anything else on this list.** The 35,570 projected losses for Alaska are largely set before December 31 by how many data sources flow into the eligibility decision automatically. Field outreach after the rule activates can recover individual enrollees but cannot meaningfully change the aggregate number.
- 2 Stand up UI wage match in the eligibility system if it's not already operational. UI wage data is the single most important data source — it auto-verifies the ~45% of subject enrollees who are working but would otherwise have to upload paystubs every month.
- 3 Coordinate with managed-care plans to flag medically-frail enrollees up-front. Adding the disability-determination flag at the eligibility layer (not at verification) removes the ~19% of the loss-by-2034 picture that's medically frail without a recent provider letter.
- 4 Your single largest exempt-but-at-risk group is **American Indian / Alaska Native (tribal exemption)** (about 14,078). The feed that clears it: wire up IHS / tribal-enrollment data sharing so the exemption auto-applies.
- 5 Cross-reference SNAP work-compliance rolls. Those enrollees are categorically exempt under §1902(xx)(2)(F) — the bill explicitly recognizes the overlap. Estimated to remove ~8% from the verification load nationally.
- 6 Hardship-exception decision still pending. Decide before September 2026 — late filing pushes back qualifying-county determinations into the verification window.
- 7 Build (or harden) a verification portal that accepts paystubs, school transcripts, training-program letters, and caregiver attestations. Nationally, about 20.0% of subject enrollees have a child under 14 in the household; caregiver self-attestation prevents most needless terminations.
- 8 Ship a Q4 2026 comms plan now. Most procedural disenrollments are people who never saw the verification letter. Postal address validation, MCO-channel outreach, and a SMS/email reminder schedule reach far more enrollees than any post-activation door-knocking campaign.

Peer states

Comparable expansion populations, solving the same problem.

State	Subject pool	Burden index
Delaware (DE)	63,963	-1.3
Nebraska (NE)	65,180	+0.1
Vermont (VT)	57,298	-1.9

Every Alaska county, with subject count, projected loss, rate, and burden index, is in the CSV:

Download AK county breakdown (CSV) →

Methodology, in brief. State counts are calibrated to CMS T-MSIS enrollment and the CBO national total; within-state detail and exemptions come from per-state ACS PUMS 2020-2024, SAMHSA, and BJS, with Section 1931 parents removed as covered outside expansion. The ex parte composite leads with the state's observed 2023-2026 renewal rate. Full methodology, sources, and limitations: gizmowarehouse.org/gizmo/medicaid-work-requirements. Corrections: joe@group17a.com. Built by 17A.