

HHS-administered Federal External Review Process Deadline Extension

Effective July 31, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services ([HHS](#))-administered [Federal External Review Process \(FERP\)](#) is reopened. Consumers impacted by the temporary unavailability of the HHS-administered FERP now have additional time to submit requests for external review.

Extended Consumer Deadlines for Requesting External Review through the HHS-administered FERP.

Consumers in states and territories without an applicable state external review process as determined by HHS (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Wisconsin, Texas, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands) and whose group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage has elected to use the HHS-administered FERP may be eligible for additional time to request external review through MAXIMUS, the HHS FERP contractor.

Consumers enrolled in a self-insured non-Federal governmental health plan that has elected to use the HHS-administered FERP may also be eligible for additional time to request external review through MAXIMUS, the HHS FERP contractor.

- Consumers for whom the deadline to request external review fell between July 1, 2026 and August 3, 2026 (the first full business day after the reopening of the HHS-administered FERP) will have until October 2, 2026, which is the 60th calendar day after August 3, 2026, to request external review with MAXIMUS.
- Consumers who have already submitted their external review request prior to July 1, 2026 and have not yet received a decision from the HHS FERP contractor, do not need to resubmit or file any additional information at this time.

This extension does not apply to consumers who have previously received a final decision through the HHS-administered FERP.