What are Medicaid work requirements?

Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waivers provide states the ability to test new approaches in Medicaid that differ from federal program rules. In January 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a State Medicaid Director Letter (SMDL) which provided guidance to states on making work/community engagement (CE) requirements a condition of obtaining Medicaid eligibility under Section 1115 demonstration waivers.

What is the status of Ohio’s waiver request?

It was approved on May 23, 2019. The state plans to implement it on January 1, 2021.

Who is affected by Ohio’s waiver request?

The waiver request affects non-exempt adults between the age of 19 and 49, with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, who received coverage as a part of the Medicaid expansion.

There are exemptions and they include people who are:

- Pregnant women and women during the 60-day postpartum period.
- Beneficiaries who reside in a county with a waiver of the FNS ABAWD time limit.
- Exempt for other reasons from the SNAP or TANF work requirement.
- Applicants or recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Applicants or recipients of unemployment compensation.
- Medicaid eligible but incarcerated.
- Physically or mentally unfit for employment or other community engagement activities.
- Participating in a Specialized Recovery Services Program.
- Caring for a disabled or incapacitated household member.
- Parents, caretakers, or beneficiaries residing in the same household with a minor child (defined as under 19).
- In school at least half time (including GED programs).
- Participating in substance disorder treatment.
- Identified as medically frail.
How can people satisfy this requirement?

The requirement may be satisfied in the following ways:

- Work or employment in exchange for money.
- Self-employment.
- Work in exchange for goods and services.
- Unpaid work, including volunteering and internships.
- Education and training activities.
- Formal and informal job search or job readiness programs (for no more than 30 days in a year unless combined with another activity and less than half of the time is spent looking for a job).
- Participating in SNAP or TANF work requirements

How are AI/AN people affected?

The state has not sought an AI/AN waiver.

Has Ohio applied for an AI/AN waiver?

No.

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