Medicaid Wants To Change Who Gets Health Care Coverage

The Ohio Department of Medicaid wants to change who gets health care coverage under the Medicaid Expansion. Most people will have to meet work or volunteer requirements. People receiving Medicaid will have to work 20 hours a week or participate in “community engagement activities” for 20 hours a week. “Community engagement activities” include state job training or job programs. It also includes being a state approved volunteer.

There are many reasons people may not have to meet the requirements. Paperwork will be needed to prove a person has one of these reasons. When a person no longer has one of these reasons, they will have to meet the work requirements. The reasons a person will not need to meet the requirements are:

- 50 years of age or older;
- Physically or mentally unfit for employment (this is not yet explained);
- Participant in the Specialized Recovery Services Program;
- Caring for a disabled/incapacitated household member;
- Pregnant women;
- Parent/caretaker/residing in same house with child younger than 18;
- Applied for or receiving Unemployment Compensation;
- In school at least half-time;
- Participating in drug or alcohol treatment;
- An assistance group member subject to and complying with any work requirement under the Ohio Works First (OWF) program; or
- Applicant for or recipient of Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

These requirements may go into affect in July. Then, people applying for Medicaid that are eligible for the expansion will have to meet these new requirements. People already on Medicaid under the expansion will have to meet the requirements when they renew.

More information is available at the Protect Our Care – Action Center.

Tell the Ohio Department of Medicaid Your Concerns

These requirements do nothing to get people jobs that let them pay their bills and afford health care. People will struggle with proving they meet one of the reasons for not meeting the requirements. Many people will not meet any of the reasons but still have huge problems meeting the requirements e.g. people who are homeless.

Complete UHCAN Ohio’s short survey - UHCAN Ohio will send your comments to Medicaid. Please share this survey with people who depend on Medicaid expansion.

Tell the Medicaid your concerns by sending an email to MedicaidWorks@medicaid.ohio.gov and please copy UHCAN Ohio at info@UHCANOhio.org.

UHCAN Ohio is a statewide nonprofit organization working for high quality, accessible, affordable health care for all Ohioans.