

Ohio Medicaid Proposed Work Requirements

- The fiscal year 2018-2019 operating budget (HB 49) requires Ohio Medicaid to seek federal approval to require Medicaid enrollees in the expansion group to work unless they are over age 55, enrolled in school or occupational training, participating in an alcohol or drug addiction treatment program, or have intensive physical health care needs or serious mental illness ([RC 5166.37](#)).
- On January 11, 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced guidelines](#) for states to test incentives that make participation in work or other community engagement a requirement for continued Medicaid eligibility. The new guidelines only apply to non-elderly, non-pregnant adults who are eligible for Medicaid on a basis other than disability.
- On February 16, 2018, Ohio Medicaid proposed to implement a work requirement for Medicaid expansion enrollees on July 1, 2018 that is based on RC 5166.37 and the new CMS guidelines, and aligns with Ohio's existing requirements for work and community engagement under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) program.
- ***Most of the 700,000 Ohioans enrolled in the Medicaid expansion work – 58% earned income in the previous year and 44% currently meet the work requirement.***¹ Many who work are exempt from the requirement under Ohio's law, and counted as exempt in this analysis (Figure 1). An estimated 73% of current enrollees are known to be exempt from the work requirement (e.g., age 55 or older), another 9% not otherwise exempt have income that indicates they meet the requirement, and 13% not otherwise exempt are likely to meet the requirement based on SNAP guidelines. The remaining 5% – about 36,000 current Medicaid expansion enrollees – will need to comply with the work requirement or face disenrollment.
- To comply with the work requirement, Medicaid expansion enrollees will need to demonstrate they work at least 20 hours a week or are engaged in other allowable activities, including job search, education and training, or unpaid work in certain cases. New enrollees must meet the requirement when they enroll, and current enrollees must meet the requirement during their annual eligibility renewal. Failure to meet the requirement results in termination of Medicaid benefits. Limited exceptions may be granted, for example for a family emergency or illness.
- Ohio Medicaid [posted the proposed work requirement online for public comment](#) through March 18, 2018. Public hearings will be held in Cincinnati on February 21 and Columbus on March 1. Based on input from the hearings and public comments, Ohio Medicaid will finalize the application and submit to CMS for review. CMS will post Ohio's waiver application online for at least 30 days and then wait at least 45 days after submission before making a decision.

¹ In July 2017, 266,291 Medicaid expansion enrollees (38%) earned income to indicate at least 20 hours of work per week at minimum wage, and an additional 43,585 individuals (6%) met the requirement based on SNAP guidelines.

Figure 1.

