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**Melissa Ayers, Ohio Department of Medicaid**  
**614-752-5363 | [melissa.ayers@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:melissa.ayers@medicaid.ohio.gov)**

## Medicaid Work Requirements Approved

*Initiative will promote self-sufficiency and improve the well-being of Ohio's workforce*

COLUMBUS – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved Ohio's work requirement and community engagement waiver for able-bodied Ohioans in the Medicaid expansion population. Medicaid expansion enrollees will now need to demonstrate they work 20 hours per week or are engaged in other allowable activities, including job search, education and training, or community service.

"Governor DeWine believes in the transformative power of connecting work-ready adults on Medicaid with the thousands of open jobs across his state," said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. "As the 9th state to receive CMS approval to introduce community engagement requirements in their program, Ohio is embarking on an important mission to break the cycle of poverty for thousands of Ohio families."

Poverty, food insecurity, housing, and employment status can impact an individual's overall health and there is a strong connection between improved health and being employed. There are over 100,000 jobs on OhioMeansJobs waiting to be filled. The goal of a fair work requirement will be to connect people who are part of the expansion population with jobs like these. Additional connections can be made with appropriate job training programs, similar to what is referenced in the DeWine Administration's InnovateOhio priority by offering funding to individuals to complete industry certificates and prepare them for one of the many in-demand careers in Ohio.

"By promoting economic self-sufficiency, Ohio can improve the well-being of the state's workforce and families while providing health care for our most vulnerable citizens," said Maureen M. Corcoran, director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid. "Our objective is to connect able-bodied individuals on Ohio Medicaid with the resources they need to succeed. By working together with our state and local partners, we can keep Ohioans healthy and help them find meaningful employment."

After an extensive public comment period, Ohio Medicaid submitted the request to CMS as required by the Ohio General Assembly. The final waiver will exempt the following individuals from the new Work Requirements:

- Age 50 and older
- Parent caretaker
- Individuals with a chronic condition
- Individuals qualifying for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Able-bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) programs

The state can also grant limited good cause exceptions for reasons such as a family emergency or illness.

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Today, 58 percent of Ohio's Medicaid expansion enrollees are employed. Expansion enrollees who do not already have jobs will need to demonstrate they work at least 20 hours per week or are engaged in other allowable activities, including job search, education and training, or community service.

Qualified activities may take the form of work, community engagement, job search and job readiness programs, or education and training courses. The allowable education and training activities, as well as job search and job readiness programs, are designed to provide job training and a variety of skills to participants. Instruction will be available both in person and online (including through OhioMeansJobs) and may include basic education components such as high school or equivalent education, remedial education, adult basic education, basic literacy education, and education for an individual with limited English proficiency. Programs may also include vocational education, apprenticeships, and higher education components.

CMS approval letter and documents can be found [here](#).

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