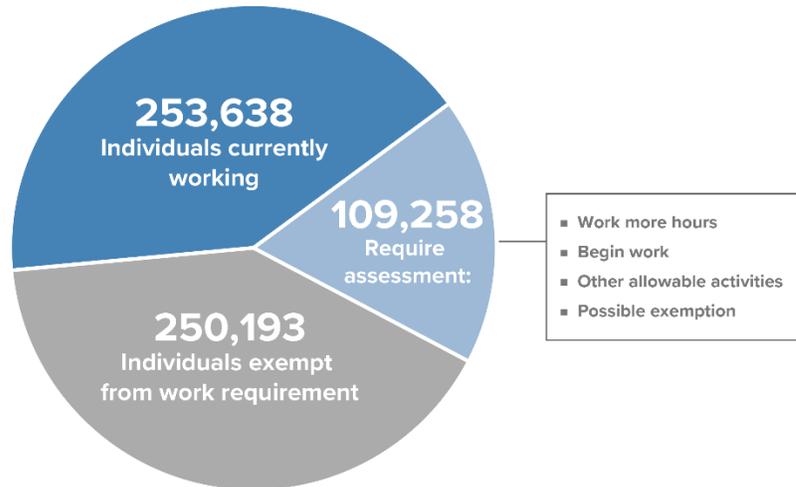


## Ohio Medicaid Expansion Work and Community Engagement Requirements

Estimated impact based on February 2019 data



Source: Ohio Benefits for eligibility, income and demographics (February 2019 extract), Medicaid Information Technology System claims data for chronic conditions, and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for SNAP/ABAWD exclusions.

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*The DeWine-Husted administration will focus on connecting people within the Medicaid expansion population with job training programs, job opportunities, and community engagement activities to promote financial independence, economic stability and meaningful employment.*

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### Budget Impact

The Executive budget includes funding to implement the work and community engagement requirements as outlined in the proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). These amounts total \$28.0 million (\$9.5 million state GRF) over the biennium. The initial impact on Job and Family Services is also being accounted for through this biennial budget. Implementation of the new requirements is targeted for January 2021.

### Background

Studies show a positive correlation between employment and health care coverage, and Medicaid expansion survey respondents indicate that Medicaid coverage helped them look for, obtain and maintain work. While many individuals within the Medicaid program work, more can be done to promote and encourage employment and

community engagement efforts that promote financial independence and economic stability while improving health outcomes.

House Bill 49 of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly created new work and community engagement requirements for the adult Medicaid expansion population (ORC 5166.37). On March 15, 2019, the Ohio Department of Medicaid received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to move forward with the waiver to implement the requirements

With the new work and community engagement requirements in place, Medicaid expansion enrollees will need to demonstrate that they work at least 20 hours per week or are engaged in other allowable activities, including job search, education and training, or community service. Existing expansion enrollees who are not engaged in employment or other allowable activities will need to begin to meet the requirement by the date of their next annual benefits renewal, and individuals who fail to meet the requirement will have their Medicaid benefits terminated. Exemptions will be granted to individuals who meet specific criteria, including for people who are over age 50, parents and caretaker relatives, and individuals with chronic conditions. Additional limited good cause exceptions may be granted for reasons such as a family emergency or illness.

In 2018,<sup>1</sup> 58 percent of Ohio's Medicaid expansion enrollees were employed, and over 41 percent of the expansion population worked at least 20 hours per week. Many individuals in the expansion group reported that Medicaid helps them maintain employment, and 71 percent of expansion enrollees who terminated coverage in 2018 said they disenrolled from the program because they got a job or had increased income.

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*Individuals in the Medicaid expansion population said the following in 2018:*

*"[Medicaid] has helped me to continue to keep the current job I have as a real estate agent."*

*"[Medicaid] allows me to get surgery which has allowed me to return to work."*

*"[Medicaid] has been a godsend. I had some serious issues going on. My insurance was so bad at my job...I just couldn't get the care that I needed."*

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## **Policy Proposal**

To implement the work and community engagement requirements by an estimated date of January 1, 2021, the Ohio Department of Medicaid will undertake the following activities:

### Connecting Individuals in The Medicaid Expansion Population with Meaningful Work

- » Individuals who qualify under the Medicaid expansion who do not meet the work and community engagement requirement will be required to work or engage in allowable activities to maintain Medicaid eligibility. 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, will be designed to provide job training and a variety of skills to

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<sup>1</sup> Ohio Department of Medicaid. [2018 Ohio Medicaid Group VIII Assessment](#). August 2018.

participants. Instruction will likely be available both in person and online, and in partnership with OhioMeansJobs. Programs may also include vocational education, apprenticeships, and higher education components.

- » Ohio Medicaid will develop a “warm handoff” with individuals seeking employment and education targeted at individuals with the greatest need. Today, there are nearly 150,000 jobs on OhioMeansJobs waiting to be filled, and the goal of Ohio’s work and community engagement requirement will be to connect people who are part of the expansion population with these jobs, or with the training they need to get these jobs. Under Lieutenant Governor Husted’s direction, InnovateOhio will contribute to these efforts.

#### Streamlining & Simplifying the Administrative Processes Associated with the Requirements

- » Ohio Medicaid is aligning aspects of the work and community engagement requirements with existing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements to mitigate enrollee confusion, reduce administrative burden for counties, and comply with CMS guidance.
- » The Department of Medicaid will also create automated processes to reduce administrative steps included in individuals’ reporting requirements and county JFS casework while enhancing long-term opportunities to maximize job success and connection to OhioMeansJobs.