

Medicaid Work Reporting Requirements



What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is health insurance for children, seniors, people with disabilities, pregnant people, and adults with low incomes. It allows them to get the health care they need without going into medical debt. It's a state and federal partnership, with the federal government providing funding so that state residents get the health care they need.

What are work reporting requirements?

Medicaid eligibility is primarily based on income, but work reporting requirements would add a new rule for adults that requires them to log a minimum number of hours working, volunteering, or engaging in educational activities to keep their health coverage.

This may sound like a great way to empower people – but these requirements create more government spending and headaches to solve a problem that doesn't exist. **The majority of people who get their health coverage through Medicaid do work.** If they aren't working full-time, they're a caregiver, live with an illness or disability, are retired, or are attending school. Work reporting requirements create bureaucratic red tape for working people, by requiring them to fill out burdensome paperwork several times a year – which is costly for the state to process and leads to many people losing their coverage by mistake.

Pam's Story:

Caregivers like Pam are the backbone of our communities. They care for others in jobs that don't offer health insurance and often come with varying schedules that don't fall in line with strict and harmful work requirement proposals. Working in our homes and communities IS work – but work requirements wouldn't see it that way.



What would work reporting requirements mean for our state?

Qualifying for Medicaid coverage and accessing health care is hard enough. Work reporting requirements impose even more bureaucratic barriers that prevent people from getting and staying healthy. Work requirements do not help people find work or get and stay healthy enough to work. Taking away access to medications and medical care will only make them sicker and less able to work in the future. Work requirements would mean that:



Full-time parents and caregivers are not eligible for health care to keep their loved ones healthy



Patients living with serious diseases, like cancer, lose access to lifesaving treatment if they forget to file the right form



People who make a small mistake, or miss a step on a complicated government form will get their health care taken away, often without their knowledge



Gig economy workers with unreliable schedules could lose their coverage because they fell a couple hours short of meeting the requirement one month

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