# October
# Community Call

Tue, Oct 13, 2026
12pm-1pm
Google Meet

# Welcome

Name, Organization, Role, Email in Chat






# Agenda

- Task Force Updates
- Work Requirements: What we know so far
- What members are hearing
- What Communication Support would help most?
- Coverage and Care Access Reminders
- Action Items?

# Task Force Updates

# Sept Community Call Follow-ups

- MDHHS Webinars
  - https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDHHS/subscriber/new
  - Katie will try to send out but was too late this time
- What is the best way to get support if you are a navigator and having trouble with a client's access?
  - MIBridges Community Partner email inbox MDHHScommunitypartners@michigan.gov and the Mi Bridges Help Desk for technical issues at 1-844-799-9876 or TTY 1-833-285-5910 from 8am-5pm Mon-Fri.

# Website Updates

- Since Sept Community Call
  - Muskegon Work Group Information
  - Finalized Outreach Materials Format to upload more materials
  - Uploading KCHD All Staff Communication and the MDHHS Webinar Slides for Non-citizens
  - Uploaded MDHHS Webinar videos
  - Created slides for use by any Task Force member to conduct outreach presentations
  - Partner Network page updates
  - Addition of Gender-affirming care changes to FAQs

# Gender Affirming Care Clarification

There are no changes in the Michigan Medicaid program's coverage of HIV-related services, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Please encourage community partners to consult the MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual, applicable Fee Schedules, and the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS) Code Rate and Reference tool for additional guidance.

Regarding gender affirmation services, a bulletin with further information will be released shortly. Members of the community will have an opportunity to submit feedback or questions during the public comment period, and all responses will be addressed in a consultation summary.

# American Indian Clarification

- This is to confirm that in the updated BEM 225, Persons born in Canada at least 50% American Indian maintain eligibility for Medicaid.
    - MDHHS has confirmed to Elly Jordan that a USCIS-given document will not be required for this.

# MDHHS Navigation Funding

**Track 1** will fund awarded community action agencies currently serving HMP/SNAP populations to immediately implement navigation assistance, outreach, work and qualifying activity reporting support, and redetermination support with a total of $7.25 million.

**Track 2** will fund a non-profit that will subcontract to a network of community partners to broaden service coverage and maximize reach.  The non-profit will be selected through a formal, competitive bid process and receive $7.25 million dollars.

**Track 3** - Health systems. We have not yet seen how that will be distributed.

The initial implementation period is anticipated to run through September 30, 2028.

*More info in Sept Newsletter*

# Incorrect Determination for 10/1 Changes

**1. Individuals on Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) insurance were incorrectly also given ESO (Emergency Services Only).**

- **Correction**: Individuals on RMA insurance should NOT also have ESO. See more information about RMA insurance below.
- **MDHHS Fix:**
  - ***Immediate fix:*** If you have a client that is on RMA and ESO, immediately send this information to OGM so overrides can be completed to give the client full RMA coverage as soon as possible.
  - ***Permanent fix:*** OGM is waiting for a timeframe estimate from MDHHS.

*More info in Sept Newsletter*

# Incorrect Determination for 10/1 Changes

**2. Children on Medicaid were incorrectly sent notices for a change of coverage to ESO on 10/1.**

- **Correction:** Children, aged 21 and younger, who are eligible for Medicaid under CHIPRA (Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act) expansion should remain on Medicaid after 10/1.
- **MDHHS Fix:** MDHHS is fixing this error in the Bridges system over the 9/18 weekend, and cases should receive notification of corrections the following week. Their Medicaid coverage should not be interrupted on 10/1.

*More info in Sept Newsletter*

# Work Requirements: What We Know So Far

# MDHHS Webinar Series

**Links to past webinars can be found on our website or**
**https://www.michigan.gov/healthymiplan/work-requirements-partner-toolkit**

1. Planning for work requirements
2. From Policy to Practice
3. Navigating Work Requirements (Tues, Oct 20)
    a. Katie will be in attendance and share details asap

Following Slides are from Webinar 2

# Process to Determine if Work Requirements Apply

## Step 1: Exclusions

Check whether someone qualifies for an exclusion, such as being medically frail, an American Indian/Alaska Native, parent of a child under age 14 or compliant with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Only individuals who do not meet the specified excluded status are subject to work requirements.

## Step 2: Exceptions

Individuals who are subject to work requirements may qualify for an exception including:

**Mandatory Exceptions:** For example, under the age of 19 or incarcerated in the last three months; or

**Short-Term Hardship Exceptions:** Such as traveling for care, inpatient treatment or living in a county with high rate of unemployment.

## Step 3: Qualifying Activities

If an individual does not meet a mandatory or short-term hardship exception, they must demonstrate compliance with one or more qualifying activities, such as:

- Work.
- Community service/volunteer.
- Work program.
- School.

# Exemptions




## Caregiver Exemptions

**Parent or caregiver** of a child 13 or younger.

**Caregiver of someone who needs help with daily activities,** such as a disabled person or older adult.

# Exemptions




## Health-Related Exemptions

In a **drug or alcohol treatment program.**

**Pregnant,** now or within last 12 months.

# Exemptions




## Health-Related Exemptions – Medical Frailty

**Physical, mental or developmental disability** that makes it hard to do daily activities.

**Disabling mental health condition** such as schizophrenia, major depression or Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

**Serious or complex health condition*** that requires regular medical care.

Living with a **drug or alcohol disorder.**

***IMPORTANT:** Per federal guidance, diagnosis alone is not sufficient to assign medical frailty; conditions must also "significantly impair" an individual's ability to work.

# Exemptions




## Additional Exemptions

**Under age 26 and aged out of foster care.**

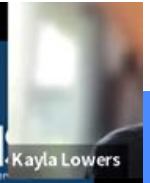
Currently **in jail or prison,** or was released within last 90 days.

**Veteran with a 100% disability rating.**

Receiving **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or TANF** and already required to meet **work requirements.**

Previously **excluded individuals.**

# Exemptions




## Short-Term, Hardship-Related Exemptions

Living in a county in which there has been a **federally declared disaster or emergency.**

Living in a **county with a high unemployment rate**.

**Receiving care in a hospital**, facility or getting similar level of care.

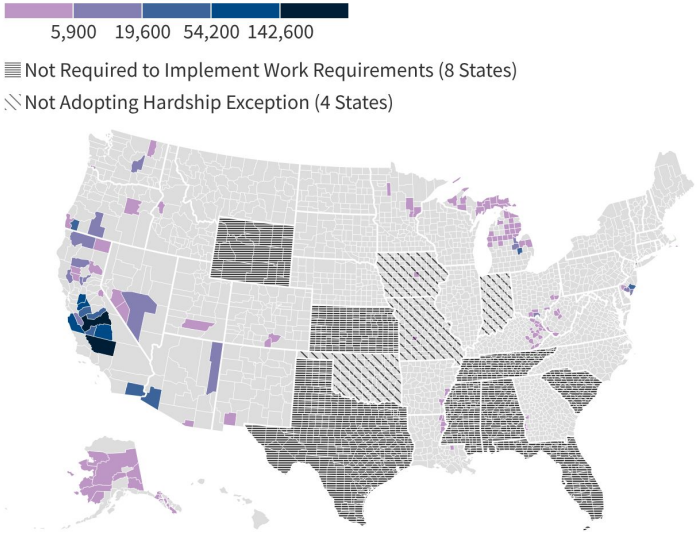
**Traveling outside community to get medical care** for themselves or dependent.

**IMPORTANT:** Per federal guidance beneficiaries must request that MDHHS apply these short-term hardship exemptions.

Figure 1

**About 1.4 Million Medicaid Expansion Enrollees Live in Counties with High Unemployment and Could Qualify for a Hardship Exception to Work Requirements**

Medicaid expansion enrollment in counties that meet criteria for the unemployment exception to the Medicaid work requirements, using a 12-month unemployment average, February 2025-January 2026




Note: The 12-month average covers February 2025 to January 2026. BLS did not release unemployment data for October 2025 due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations. A provision in the budget reconciliation law allows states to request a hardship exception to the Medicaid work requirements for enrollees who live in counties with unemployment rates at or above 8% or below 8% but 1.5 or more times the national average. Four states — Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Oklahoma — do not plan to adopt the exception. This analysis includes expansion states and states with partial expansion waiver programs (Georgia and Wisconsin) whose enrollees will also be subject to work requirements.

Source: KFF Analysis of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Labor Force Data by County, February 2025-January 2026, T-MSIS Research Identifiable Files, 2023, and Medicaid Budget and Expenditure System (MBES) June 2025 Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Data.

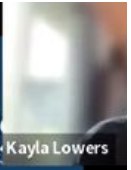
KFF

Nine in ten expansion enrollees who are in counties that meet the high unemployment criteria and could be exempt from the work requirements live in five states—California, New York, Michigan, New Jersey, and Oregon.



https://www.kff.org/medicaid/a-look-at-the-high-unemployment-hardship-exception-to-medicaid-work-requirements-based-on-unemployment-data-from-february-2025-to-january-2026/

# Ways to Meet Requirements




## Work

- **$580+ income per month, or**
- **80 hours of work including:**
  - Employment.
  - Unpaid/in-kind work.
  - Self-employment.
  - Seasonal work.
  - Work program.

## Education

Enrolled **at least half-time** in college or vocational program. Half-time is defined by the school.

*This is different from SNAP work requirements – students attending an institution of higher education, i.e., college, trade/technical school, more than half-time are only eligible for SNAP if they meet an exemption.*

## Volunteering

Unpaid work with a **structured program** that is completed for the **direct benefit of the community.**

Volunteer hours may be voluntary or required, such as service completed as part of a court order or other mandate.

**Activities across these categories can be combined to meet the 80-hour minimum requirement.**

# Verification Standards

MDHHS Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Nicole Hud

## In 2027

If data is unavailable, **may require documentation or accept other information,** e.g., self attestation.

**Important note:** There a few instances where proof is required, including:

- Proof of Income.
- Proof of Disability Rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

## In 2028 and Beyond

- If available data is not enough, **require documentation** when reasonably available.
- If documentation is not available, **accept other information to verify eligibility**. State cannot deny or terminate coverage solely due to lack of documents.

# Other Key Takeaways

## Work requirements are necessary for every 6 month renewal and when you apply.

- **When renewing HMP coverage**, you must meet work requirements during at least one month since your last renewal. If this is your first renewal, you must meet work requirements during at least one month since your coverage started.
- **When applying for Medicaid,** you must meet work requirements during the month before your application or the month you apply.
    - If you met work requirements during the month before you applied, your coverage may start that same month.
    - If you meet work requirements during the month you apply, your coverage may start the next month.

## Work requirements must be met in ONE calendar month in the 6 month renewal time-frame.

# MDHHS' Website

**https://www.michigan.gov/healthymiplan/new-medicaid-work-requirements**

- Contains most up-to-date information for beneficiaries

# What are Task Force Members Hearing?

# What Communication Support would be most helpful?

# Communication Tools for You

**Our website is created for you. We want to ensure it is providing the best tools possible.**

- What materials do you wish you had to share with your staff?
- What materials do you wish you had for your clients?
- What would make the website more useful to you?

# Coverage and Care Access Reminders

# Options for People who Lose or are Ineligible for Medicaid Coverage

## Emergency Services Only (ESO) Medicaid

Covers life-threatening emergencies only.

- Does **not** cover:
  - Regular doctor visits
  - Preventative care
  - Ongoing care for long-term illnesses
  - Most prescriptions medicines
  - Non-emergency procedures

## Free Clinics

Find a clinic:
https://www.fcomi.org/find-a-clinic

## Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

Find a center:
https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/

## Refugee Medicaid Assistance (RMA)

See previous Slide

# Action Items?

# Thanks

Do you have any questions?

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