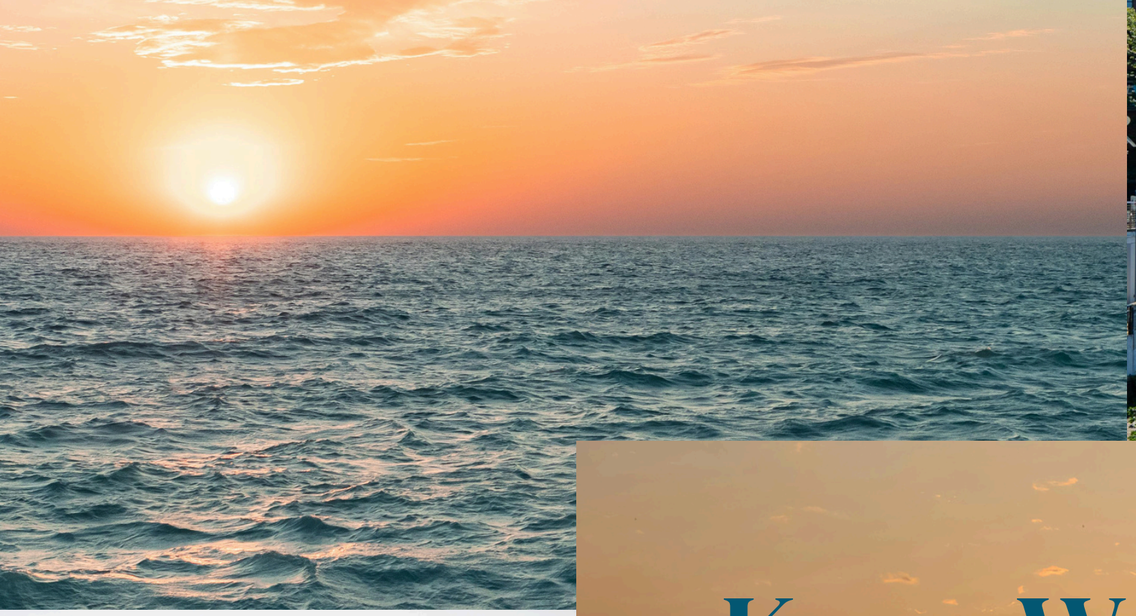
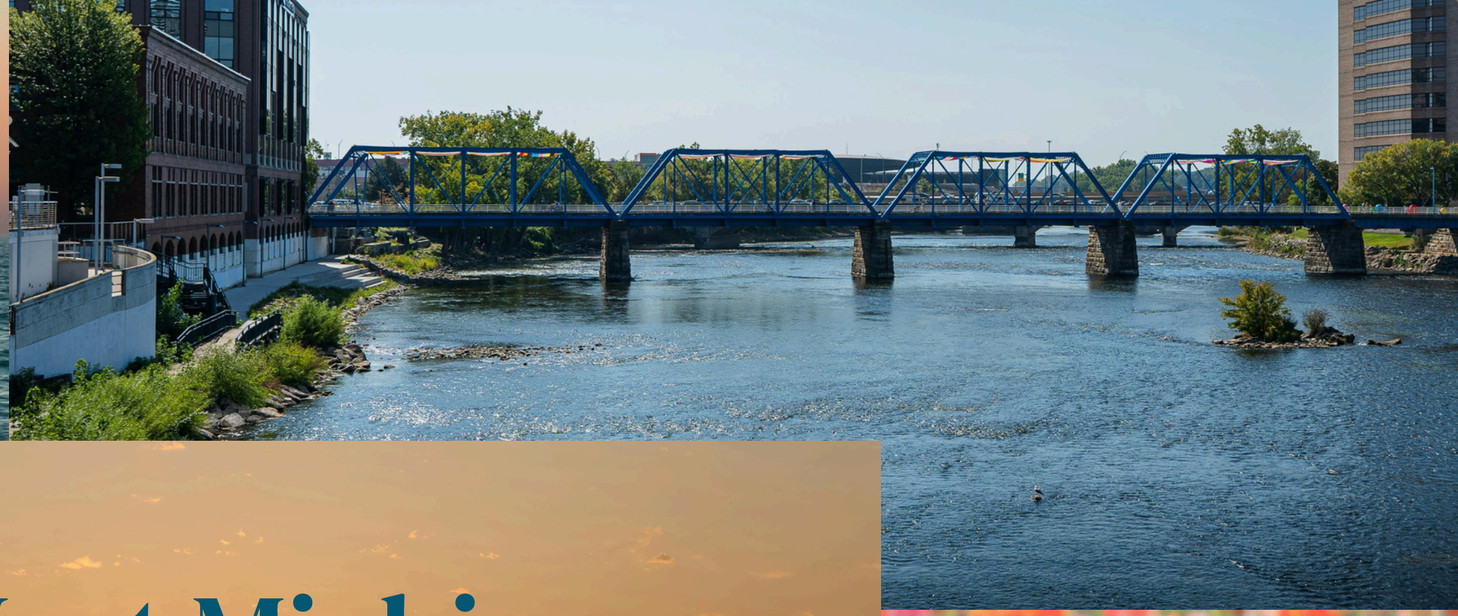
West Michigan Medicaid Task Force Quarterly Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2026
12:30pm - 2:00pm
MSU Extension, Grand Rapids





Keep West Michigan Covered. Together.





Agenda.

1. Welcome and Expectations
2. Work Group and Task Force Updates
3. Work Requirement Updates
4. What We Are Hearing in West Michigan
5. Communication Materials and Website Priorities
6. Coordinating Our Response
7. Closing

Welcome and Expectations.

Welcome!

Share with your table neighbors:

- Name
- Role
- Organization
- Favorite Fall Activity



Building on our 10.19 Community Call

Updates and Communication Material/Website Needs

Gender Affirming Care

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). Regarding gender affirmation services, a bulletin with further information will be released shortly.

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 2 funding submissions were due September 24th. At this time, there is no public information regarding awardee and secondary bid process for local non-profits. The Task Force will send information as soon as it is available.

Incorrect Determination for 10/1 Changes

Two issues have been discovered. 1) Individuals on Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) insurance were incorrectly also given ESO (Emergency Services Only) and 2) Children on Medicaid were incorrectly sent notices for a change of coverage to ESO on 10/1.

Work Group and Task Force Updates.

Work Groups



Community Navigation & Medicaid Support Collaborative



Monitoring & Evaluation Work Group



Information & Outreach Coordination Work Group



Keeping Muskegon Covered Work Group

What's Been Happening?

What has been achieved because of the Task Force

New Website

- Community Organization facing website to support outreach and training needs.
- 600-700 page views each month

Community Events for Immigrants

- Specially hosted events with Restoration Community Church (50 participants) and West Michigan Friendship Center (45 participants)
- Translation services provided by Welcome Plan
- Chromebooks provided by Kent District Library
- Coordinated for navigators/outreach at local events:
  - Family Preparedness Clinic, Zeeland
  - Al-Noor Mosque and Masjid Al-Tawheed
  - Autumn Festival: Chinese Association of West Michigan

Information Sharing

- Monthly Newsletter sent to 180+ recipients with a 42%-65% open rate
- Monthly Webinar with 51, 28, and 53 participants
- Katie has been presenting:
  - ENTF Board
  - HEC-MHAT
  - University of Michigan Health Regional Network
  - West Michigan Asian American Association navigators
  - Disability Advocates: Black and Brown Community Partner Event
  - Infant Health Action Team
  - KCFCCC

What's Been Happening?

A Mentimeter Moment for YOUR work!

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Work Requirement Updates.

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 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 3 months; or

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

Volunteering

If an individual does not meet a mandatory or short-term 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 the 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 conditions* 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

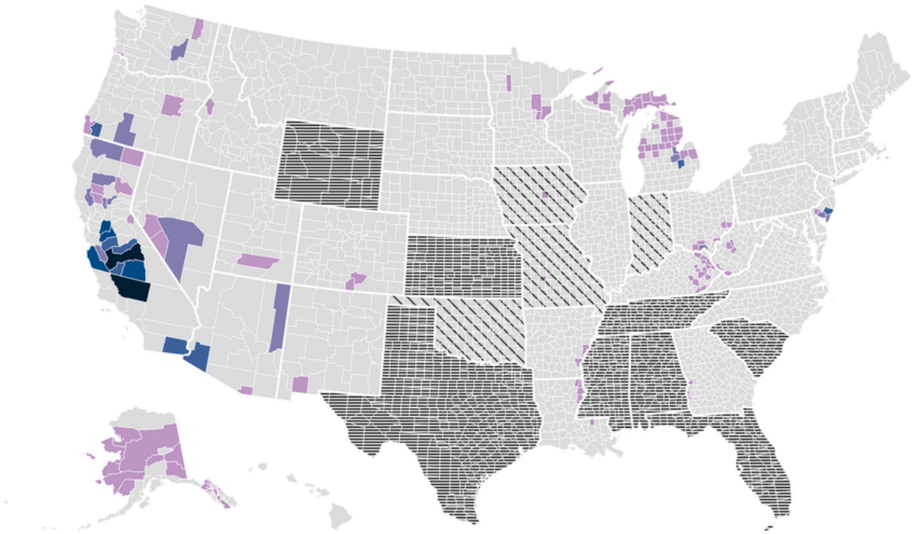
About 1.4 Million Medicaid Expansion Enrollees Live in Counties with High Unemployment and Could Qualify for a Hardship Exception to Work Requirements

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



Not Required to Implement Work Requirements (8 States)

Not Adopting Hardship Exception (4 States)

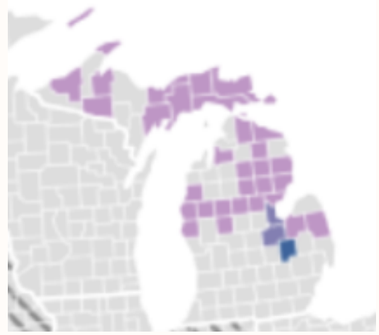


Note: The 12-month average covers February 2025 to January 2026. BLS did not release unemployment data for October 2025 due to the 2025 lapse in appropriations. A provision in the budget reconciliation law allows states to request a hardship exception to the Medicaid work requirements for enrollees who 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.



POLICY WATCH

A Look at the High Unemployment Hardship Exception to Medicaid Work Requirements

A Look at the High Unemployment Hardship Exception to Medicaid Work Requirements Based on Unemployment Data from February 2025 to…

In the 39 states that are adopting or may adopt the high unemployment hardship exception, about 1.4 million or 7.5% of Medicaid expansion enrollees live in one of the 133 counties that currently meet the high-unemployment criteria.

KFF / Jun 11

Ways to Meet Work 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.**
- **Must be met in a ONE calendar month time frame in renewal period (or prior to application).**

Verification Standards

In 2027

If data is unavailable, may require documentation or accept other form (i.e. self-attestation).

Important note: There will be 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 solely due to lack of documents

What We Are Hearing in West Michigan.





What are We Hearing?

- Many **people do not know** about upcoming work requirements
- People are losing Medicaid due to immigration status, we may need to do more **outreach around open enrollment** for Healthcare Marketplace (Nov 1) and free or low-cost options like clinics and FQHCs
- People that do know about work requirements don't know w**hat qualifies for the 80 hours.** Still a lot of unanswered questions.
- Non-citizens who have lost coverage and have chronic conditions - **can they contact legal aid?** Would that be helpful?
- Non-citizens are **unsure who to trust** due to the changing information (i.e. wrong letters being sent)
- People are not necessarily "popping in" for navigation at community events. Suggest specific **navigation time-slots.**

What are you hearing?

A Mentimeter Moment for YOUR work!

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Communication Materials and Website Priorities.

Communication Materials

- Talking Points 1-2 pagers
  - FAQ for Staff who may receive questions but don’t regularly work with Medicaid beneficiaries
  - For medium to large businesses
  - For community leaders
- “Know your Renewal Date” reminder info to support beneficiaries meeting deadlines
- Info sheet for “how do students fulfill requirements if not half-time?”
- Work Requirements Timeline Explainer (explain 6 month renewals, one calendar month work requirements, etc.)

Website Needs

- Talking Points Google Drive Link
  - 1 pagers for different audiences
- Work requirements page (as a focus on the “Enrollment Resources” page)
- Add minutes from meetings (quarterly, work groups)
- Add materials from West MI Works! for work requirement support
- Share other ways to stay up-to-date on documentation (alternates to MIBridges)
  - link to email from MDHHS
  - mail in application
  - walk-in to local office
- List of Task Force Achievements

We need your help.

A Mentimeter Moment to help us prioritize.

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Coordinating Our Response.

Small Group Activity

How can we work better together to help West Michigan residents navigate Medicaid changes?

Goal: Identify one practical improvement we can advance together.

Start. Share. Stop

Discuss these prompts at your table

START	SHARE	STOP
What is one thing we should be doing together?	**What do partners already know or do that others could benefit from?**	**What duplication or barrier could we reduce?**

Before time is up, agree on:

- One priority for the Task Force to consider.
- One practical next step or connection that could help advance it.

Small Group Activity

How can we work better together to help West Michigan residents navigate Medicaid changes?

Each table: share one priority and one next step.

Our priority
What opportunity or challenge should we focus on?

Our next step
What is one action, connection, or decision that would move this forward?

As we listen, consider:

- Which ideas came up across multiple tables?
- What can the Task Force realistically help coordinate?
- What needs further discussion after the upcoming state update?

Closing.

Keeping West Michigan Covered

What Leaders Need to Know About Medicaid Changes

Join the West Michigan Medicaid Task Force for a community leadership briefing on what is changing, what we are seeing locally, and what community leaders should know as these changes take effect.

Thursday, October 22, 2026

8:00AM Coffee & Networking
8:30-9:30AM Program

HUB07, 1534 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Your attendance is greatly appreciated.
We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Katie at:
coordinator@westmimedicaid.org

Thursday, Oct 22nd Link to RSVP:



Community Leadership Briefing

10/22 Keeping West Michigan Covered: What Leaders Need to Know about Medicaid Changes

Medicaid Task Force / Oct 22

Tuesday, November 10th
Tuesday, December 8th

Community Calls
Google Meet



2027 Quarterly In-Person Meetings at MSU-Extension

Mon, January 11th or 25th
Mon, April 19th
Mon, July 19th
Mon, October 18th



Request a Presentation:

https://
forms.gle/2eJmy9bbGobwRjDe9



Anything for the good of the group?



Contact Us

Katie Jourdan
coordinator@westmimedicaid.org

Credits

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Happy designing!