



HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN

WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS: THE BASICS ON PUBLIC ACT 208 OF 2018

Beginning January 1, 2020, upon approval by the federal government, individuals enrolled in the Healthy Michigan Plan must comply with work engagement requirements in order to continue receiving coverage.

BASIC REQUIREMENT: Healthy Michigan Plan enrollees must complete an average of 80 hours per month of “qualifying work activities” in order to receive coverage.

WHERE WE STAND

The Michigan League for Public Policy was a vocal opponent to the work requirement bill that passed the Michigan Legislature and was signed by Governor Rick Snyder in June. Work requirements will result in lost coverage for some enrollees, increased costs to our state, and unnecessary and difficult paperwork for those trying to apply for an exemption or stay in compliance. Over 650,000 Michiganders are enrolled in the Healthy Michigan Plan. We want to help every single one of them thrive.

WHAT KIND OF OVERSIGHT WILL THE PROGRAM HAVE?

- Enrollees must be notified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that they must meet this requirement at least 90 days prior to its January 1, 2020 implementation
- Recipients must submit verification of qualifying work activities by the 10th of each month through the online MiBridges information system
- Recipients must be compliant for nine out of 12 months
- DHHS will send notification each month that a recipient is noncompliant
- DHHS may conduct random audits
- Recipients found to have misrepresented their compliance will be locked out of the Healthy Michigan Plan for a full year

To learn more about the dangers of Medicaid work requirements, read our full report: *Why Making People Work Doesn't Work* at www.mlpp.org/health

WHAT ARE “QUALIFYING WORK ACTIVITIES”?

- Employment or self-employment
- Educational pursuits (including GED preparation or college)
- Job and vocational training
- Unpaid workforce engagement, including internships
- Tribal employment programs
- Community service (Only three months in a 12-month period)
- Participation in substance use disorder treatment
- Job search directly related to job training
- Having income consistent with being employed



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WHO IS EXEMPT?

Although the list of exemptions seems lengthy, we at the League are deeply concerned by the process of obtaining an exemption. Cumbersome paperwork for recipients, healthcare providers and state employees will be necessary, and the lack of clarity laid out in the law will further complicate the process.

- Individuals ages 63-65
- Women who are pregnant
- Individuals who have a disability making them eligible for traditional Medicaid
- Caretakers of family members under the age of 6*
- Caretakers of disabled dependents*
- Caretakers of incapacitated individuals*
- Individuals receiving temporary or permanent disability benefits from a private insurer or the government
- Individuals who are designated medically frail
- Recipients of state unemployment benefits
- Individuals age 20 and under who have previously been placed in foster care
- Full-time students who are not a dependent of a parent or guardian or whose parent or guardian qualifies for traditional Medicaid
- Individuals who have a medical condition that results in a work limitation according to a licensed medical professional
- Individuals who meet the good cause temporary exemption
- Recipients with a disability as described under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act or the Affordable Care Act who are unable to meet the workforce engagement requirements related to that disability
- Individuals who have been incarcerated within the last six months
- Recipients in a home with an immediate family member with a disability who are unable to meet the requirements for reasons related to the disability of the family member
- Recipients who experience hospitalization or serious illness, or who have family members who have such experiences
- Recipients who receive court-ordered, prescribed or Medicaid-funded substance use disorder treatment
- Recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) who are either compliant or exempt from that program's workforce engagement requirements

*Only one individual per household can claim this exemption.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The League is carefully monitoring Public Act 208 and we are committed to minimizing the harm done by this law. We continue to work with partners at the Department of Health and Human Services and other stakeholders to track the progress of implementation. Please follow www.mlpp.org and our social media accounts to get the latest news.

June 22, 2018
SB 897 becomes law

October 1, 2018
Submission of waiver due to
federal government

January 1, 2020
If approved, law goes into effect

August 12, 2018
Michigan public comment
period ends

Fall 2018
Federal public comment
period begins

