

Understanding *Work Reporting Requirements*

What are they good for?

Absolutely nothing.

They Are a Barrier to Health Care Coverage

- In 2018, more than 18,000 individuals in Arkansas lost Medicaid coverage due to work reporting requirements. Only 2,000 have reenrolled, and fewer have found employment, since.¹
- Work reporting requirements disproportionately impact, and result in intentional or unintentional discrimination against, Medicaid enrollees with chronic conditions or disabilities.²
- Data from Ohio and Wisconsin's food stamp programs³ indicates that tens of thousands of adults lost benefits, despite an exemption from time limits for those "mentally or physically unfit for employment," because clients may not understand what's required of them or be able to complete paperwork/travel to appointments to be assessed for exemptions.
- Service industry workers or seasonal employees⁴ in Utah's tourism industry may not have enough hours week to week to meet a work reporting requirement.



They Are Unlawful

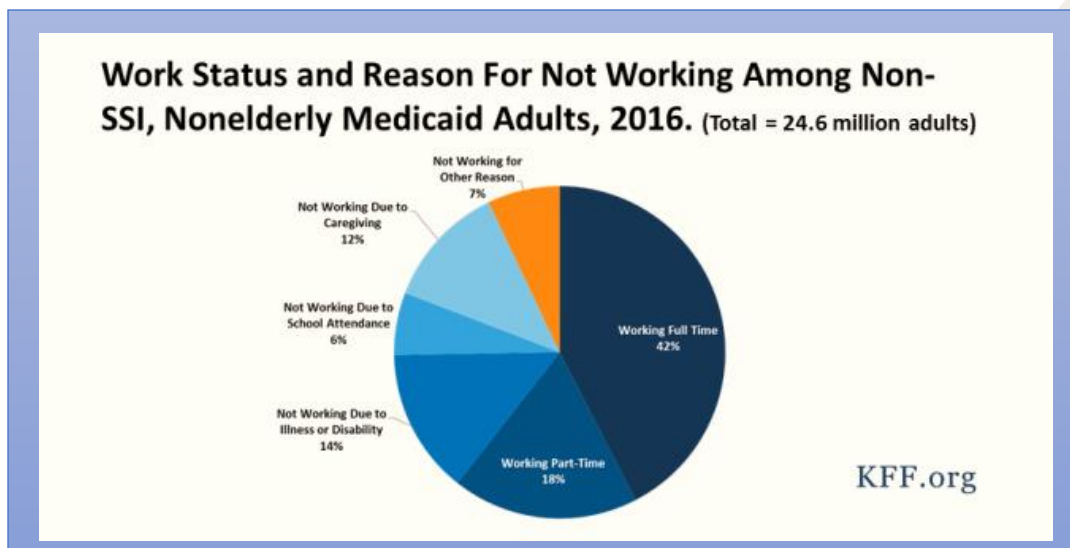
Work reporting requirements in Arkansas and Kentucky have twice been ruled illegal by a federal court because they don't support Medicaid's purpose of helping beneficiaries get medical care or services to become more independent.⁵



Utah Health Policy Project is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing sustainable health solutions through public policy, community education, grassroots engagement, and direct enrollment assistance

They Are Unnecessary

- In 2017, only a quarter of extremely low-wage workers were offered employer-based insurance. Less than 15% of those could afford to take advantage of it⁶.
- To qualify for Medicaid, a nondisabled working-age Utahn can earn just over \$1,000 a month.⁷
- Almost 2/3 of working-age adults on Medicaid are working and nearly 80% are in families with at least one worker.⁸
- If a Medicaid enrollee is unemployed, it's often because he or she has an illness or disability, is caring for his or her family, is going to school, or is retired.
- In 2015, fewer than 14% of enrollees⁹ in Utah's cash assistance program were employed in unsubsidized work or engaged in education, job search, or other work-related activities, likely due to a lack of Department of Workforce Services time or resources to follow up or provide them with the type or intensity of support needed to be successful.
- Over half of Ohio's Medicaid expansion enrollees report that access to coverage makes it easier to work. Among those without a job, 75% report coverage makes it easier to look for one.¹⁰



Bottom Line:

*Good health must come before one can find good employment.
Work reporting requirements are a red tape barrier that keep people from care.*

¹ Wagner, Jenifer. "New Arkansas Data Contradict Claims That Most Who Lost Medicaid Found Jobs." *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*, 19 Mar. 2019, www.cbpp.org/blog/new-arkansas-data-contradict-claims-that-most-who-lost-medicaid-found-jobs

² "Taking Away Medicaid for Not Meeting Work Requirements Harms People with Disabilities." *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*, 14 Mar. 2019, www.cbpp.org/research/health/taking-away-medicaid-for-not-meeting-work-requirements-harms-people-with.

³ FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) Program Cumulative Data, Wisc. Dep't of Health Servs. (May 5, 2017), <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/initiatives/fset-cumulative.htm>.

⁴ Liz Ben-Ishai, "Volatile Job Schedules and Access to Public Benefits" CLASP, September 2015, <http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/2015.09.16-Scheduling-Volatility-andBenefits-FINAL.pdf>.

⁵ Goodnough, Abby. "Judge Blocks Medicaid Work Requirements in Arkansas and Kentucky." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 27 Mar. 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/03/27/health/medicaid-work-requirement.html.

⁶ U.S. Department of Labor, "Table 2. Medical care benefits: Access, participation, and take-up rates," Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 2017, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ebs2.t02.htm>.

⁷ "Medicaid Expansion." *Medicaid Expansion | Utah Medicaid*, medicaid.utah.gov/expansion.

⁸ Garfield, Rachel, et al. "Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work." *The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation*, 13 Nov. 2018, www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work/.

⁹ It should be 14%, not 16%. Lower-Basch, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: Work Participation Rate, Center for Law and Social Policy (January 2017), available at <http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/TANF-101-Work-Participation-Rate.pdf>.

¹⁰ Kasich, John R, and Barbara R Sears. "2018 Ohio Medicaid Group VIII Assessment, Executive Summary." *Medicaid.ohio.gov*, Aug. 2018, www.medicaid.ohio.gov.