



## **Changes to Arkansas Works: Keeping Coverage in 2018 and Beyond**

Arkansas DHS has decided to make a **big change** to the Arkansas Works health insurance program, which is a type of Medicaid. Starting June 1, people on Arkansas Works will have to meet work requirements in order to keep their health insurance. Follow this guide to figure out if you'll be affected. If you want to know your rights or have questions, **call Legal Aid of Arkansas at 800-967-9224 and push 4.**

### **Question 1: Am I on Arkansas Works (aka Private Option, Health Care Independence Program, Medicaid Expansion, or Obamacare)?**

- If you have insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield, Ambetter, or Qualchoice and pay \$0 or \$13 per month, you have Arkansas Works.
- If you are not on Arkansas Works but are on another type of Medicaid (SSI, pregnancy, ARChoices, TEA), these changes won't affect you.

### **Question 2: Am I under 50 years old?**

- If you are age 50 or older, you don't have to meet work requirements to keep coverage. These changes won't affect you.
- If you under 50, you have to meet work requirements **or** show DHS that you are exempt from work requirements. YOU MUST DO THIS ONLINE.

### **Question 3: How do I meet the work requirements?**

- You must spend at least 80 hours per month doing a combination of these different kinds of work activities:
  - (1) Employment
  - (2) Part-time education or job/vocational training
  - (3) Volunteering
  - (4) Job search or job search training (up to 39 hours per month)
  - (5) Health education class (up to 20 hours per year)
- You have to make sure DHS knows that you meet the work requirements by going online by the 5th of every month for the previous month (so, you prove January by going online by February 5). GET AND KEEP DOCUMENTATION.



**Question 4: If I don't meet the work requirements, do I meet any of the "exemptions" from the work requirements?**

- If you meet an "exemption," you can keep your Arkansas Works coverage without meeting the work requirements as long as you *go online to tell DHS*.
- Exemptions only last a short time. You can keep using the same one as long as it applies, but you have to tell DHS again by *going online*:
  - (1) Caring for an incapacitated person (tell DHS again after 2 months)
  - (2) Having a short-term incapacitation (2 months)
  - (3) Participating in an alcohol/drug treatment program (2 months)
  - (4) Receiving unemployment benefits (6 months)
  - (5) Full-time education or job/vocational training (6 months)
  - (6) Pregnant (until end of post-partum period)
  - (7) Living in home with dependent minor (until it changes)
  - (8) Receive TEA cash assistance or have a SNAP exemption (30 days)
- *You have to make sure DHS knows that you meet an exemption by going online by the 5th of the month after the month in question. GET AND KEEP DOCUMENTATION.*

**Question 5: What happens if I can't meet the work requirements and don't meet an "exemption?"**

- You can only miss the work requirements for any three months in a single calendar year. After that, you lose Arkansas Works for the rest of the year and have to wait until the next year to apply again.
- For example, if you miss the work requirements in January, April, and July, you would lose coverage starting in August. And, you could not apply for Arkansas Works again until the next January.
- In the meantime, the only way to get Medicaid is if you turn 50 (and reapply for Arkansas Works) or qualify for a different kind of Medicaid like disability or pregnancy.

**If you think you will be affected, want information about your rights, or have questions, call Legal Aid of Arkansas at (800) 967-9224 and push 4.**

2 of 2 (PLEASE FLIP OVER)

For questions, call Legal Aid of Arkansas at 800-967-9224 and push 4