



Monitor Implementation of the Medicaid Waiver

So Families Can Continue to Access the Care They Need

Parents' health—and access to health insurance coverage—affects the health and well-being of their children. The single best predictor of a child's health insurance coverage is their parents' health insurance coverage, and health insurance is a vital component of access to health care. When parents are insured, they are more likely to be healthy so they can care for and provide for their children, and children rely on their parents to sign them up for health insurance and take them to the doctor.

The 1115 Medicaid Waiver, also known as Kentucky HEALTH, protects children, pregnant women, and young adults in foster care from the potential direct negative impacts of premiums and reduced benefit packages. But many adults, including parents and other caregivers, will have new requirements and reporting measures to keep up with, such as making monthly premium payments, reporting work and community engagement hours, and participating in qualified activities to accumulate My Rewards dollars for vision and dental services.

Because parent health is critical to children's well-being, parents and children on Medicaid must be able to maintain affordable health insurance and access the health care they need. Many Kentucky families who will be affected by this Waiver face challenges, such as homelessness, and may be transient in where they live. Because of that, even the basic components of applying for coverage or reporting work requirement hours can pose a challenge for these families. Parents may be subject to harmful coverage lockouts even if they are duly attempting to meet their obligations.

To protect the health of Kentucky kids and their families, the Medicaid program must be simple to understand, participate in, and utilize:

- Offer adequate timelines for parents and other participants to report changes that may affect their eligibility.
- Ensure there are a variety of ways for participants to report changes that may affect their eligibility, and offer help in person, by phone, and online so participants understand how to meet their obligations.
- Ensure that the monthly premiums and work or community engagement requirements do not unintentionally limit access to coverage.
- Ensure parents and other participants have a variety of opportunities to earn enough My Rewards dollars to cover needed vision and dental services.
- Ensure health providers know and understand changes and are equipped with the right information for patients.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Monitor implementation of the 1115 Medicaid Waiver to protect children, pregnant women, caregivers, and young adults in foster care against unintended barriers to coverage.