

2025 Learning Collaborative

Plenary Session: Ensuring Medicaid and SNAP Benefit Access and Continuity



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Navigating SNAP & Medicaid Changes

Community Impact and Response

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Federal Shutdown



Concern

- **SNAP benefits will not be available in November**
- 190,000 residents of Cuyahoga County will not receive their monthly benefit

Potential Solutions

- Government Re-opens
- USDA releases SNAP contingency funds
- Ohio uses Rainy Day Fund
- County uses emergency fund
- Cleveland Food Bank increases food available for distribution
- Community-based hunger centers increase distribution



Session Objectives

Plenary Session: Ensuring Medicaid and SNAP Benefit Access and Continuity

- Share the current status of federal and state actions affecting Medicaid and SNAP
- Discuss and understand anticipated impact of federal and state actions affecting Medicaid and SNAP
- Discuss evidence and approaches needed to co-design successful solutions



- **The County JFS Office will remain open and accepting benefit applications for all programs**
- Hunger Response Team being coordinated by Cuyahoga County
 - Streamline communications to residents
 - Address needs of residents resulting from SNAP changes as they arise
 - Reduce duplication of efforts



HR1 Immediate Impact

Concern

- On October 9th, 4,200 non-citizen residents in Cuyahoga County were notified that their SNAP benefits would be discontinued
- Due to an error by the state, residents who should not lose benefits under HR1 received the notice
- The county JFS does not have a simple way to know who should and should not have received the notice

Solutions

- County JFS has identified 900 “mixed-eligibility” households, where the children are eligible but the parents are not.
- These households will have benefits reinstated without having to take action.
- If you know someone who received the letter and believes they should still receive SNAP – they should reach out to County Welcome Center



Non-citizen SNAP Eligibility

Still Eligible

- U.S. Non-citizen nationals
- Lawful permanent residents
- Cuban & Haitian immigrants
- Migrants from the Compact of Free Association

No Longer Eligible

- All other legal immigrants including:
- Refugees and asylum recipients



County Welcome Center



Address: 4261 Fulton Parkway,
Cleveland OH 44114

Phone: 216-635-2931

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm

Email:
CuyahogaWelcomeCenter@jfs.ohio.gov



HR 1 Impact – November 1st, 2025

Change

- Work Requirement Changes for **SNAP** beneficiaries become effective
- Recipients are required to work 80 hours a month to be eligible for benefits
- “Work” can include paid employment, volunteer hours, treatment programs, education programs

Impact

- Existing work requirement exemptions removed for
 - Veterans
 - People experiencing homelessness,
 - Individuals who were formerly in foster care
 - Parents of children aged over 14
 - Adults between the ages of 55-64



SNAP Work Requirement Exemptions

- Already working 30 hours per week
- Meeting work requirements for another program
- Take care of a child younger than 14
- Physically or mentally unable to work
- Participating in a substance use treatment program
- Studying in school or training program at least half time

Documentation of exemptions must be provided to the County JFS office



County JFS Office



- Sign up for text messages
 - Ensure contact information is up to date
 - When calling, be ready with zip code, Social Security number and date of birth
- 1-844-640-6446
 - Ohio Benefits Self Service Portal
www.ssp.benefits.ohio.gov



HR 1 Impact – 2026 or 2027



Change

- For the first time in the history of Medicaid, there will be work requirements
- Renewal period changed from yearly to every six months

Impact

- Expansion population will be work required
 - Between ages of 19-64
 - Adjusted Gross Income less than 138% of the FPL
 - Do not receive Medicare
- Expansion population will renew every 6 months

**These changes only impact the Medicaid Expansion population
Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) Medicaid, Long Term Care, Waiver programs and CHIP are
not impacted by work requirements**



Medicaid Managed Care Plans



- Aetna OhioRISE
- AmeriHealth Caritas
- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Buckeye Community Health Plan
- CareSource Ohio
- Humana Healthy Horizons
- Molina Healthcare of Ohio
- United Healthcare Community Plan of Ohio



RESPONSE



GOAL: Ensure that all Ohioans have access to health care

The Medicaid Expansion population is currently most at risk of losing access.

We can:

- Provide clear and accurate information about work requirements
- Provide work opportunities
- Assist in completing necessary documentation for work activities or exemptions

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Reaction Panel: Ensuring Medicaid and SNAP Benefit Access and Continuity



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Moderator



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