

Medicaid Work Requirements: What's the Evidence?

Medicaid work requirements are intended to promote employment, but in practice, they **cost states millions, strip coverage from thousands, and do not increase employment.**

1. They Cost States Millions.

States spend more enforcing work requirements than they save. Georgia's Medicaid work requirement program has cost over \$26 million, with 90% of the budget spent on administration instead of medical services. Kentucky estimated its program would cost \$270 million before legal challenges halted implementation.

2. 36 Million Could Lose Coverage, Mostly Due to Red Tape.

Work requirements do not improve health outcomes—they create bureaucratic hurdles that cause massive coverage losses. **Most disenrollments happen due to paperwork issues, not failure to work.** Studies show no increase in employment following work requirement implementation, but clear evidence of higher uninsured rates.

3. They Don't Increase Employment.

Work requirements don't create jobs or remove employment barriers—they just make it harder for people to access healthcare. **Most Medicaid enrollees who can work already do,** and those who are not working are primarily people with disabilities, with caregiving responsibilities, or already in school or job training.

People in Every State Could Be at Risk of Losing Medicaid Coverage

Share of all Medicaid enrollees at risk under various proposals to take coverage away from people who don't meet burdensome work requirements

