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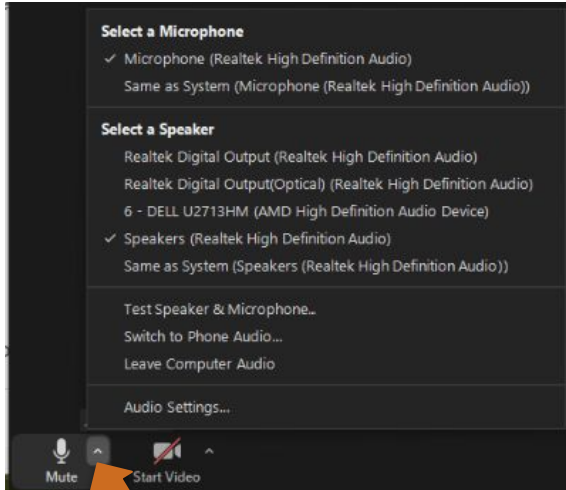
Thank you.



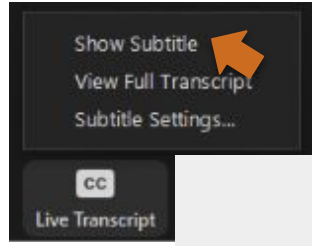
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Navigating your bar on the bottom...

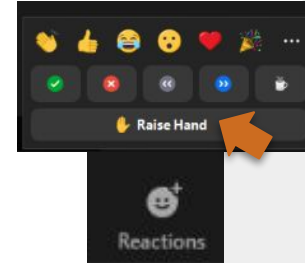
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Chat



KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS TO RAISE HAND

Windows: Alt+Y to raise or lower your hand

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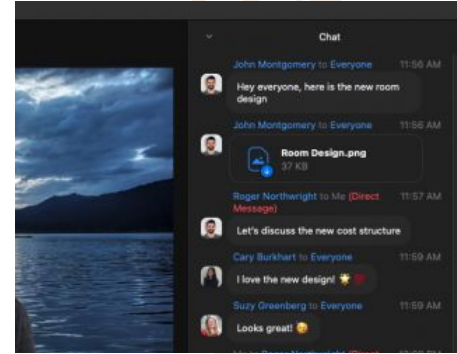
Webinar Tips



Mute your mic when you aren't speaking.



Limit background noise and distractions.



Use chat feature (or Q&A) to ask questions or share resources.

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AHCCCS Works 1115 Amendment

Max Seifer, Federal Relations Chief
AHCCCS Division of Public Policy and Strategic Planning



Section 1115 of the Social Security Act

- Allows states the flexibility to design Demonstration projects that promote the objectives of the Medicaid program,
- Demonstration projects are typically approved for a five-year period and can be renewed every five years, and
- Must be budget neutral, meaning that federal spending under the waiver cannot exceed what it would have been in absence of the waiver.

AHCCCS Works

Background

- In 2015, the Arizona State Legislature passed SB 1092, requiring AHCCCS to submit to CMS annually an 1115 Demonstration Waiver that implements:
 1. Medicaid Work Requirements,
 2. Lifetime Limits, and
 3. Cost Sharing for non-emergency use of ED and ambulance transport.

AHCCCS Works

Background Cont.

- In 2017, AHCCCS submitted an 1115 Waiver for the above which was later approved by CMS in 2019. Implementation for this program began however was quickly halted and the approval was rescinded by the Biden Administration.
- In order to comply with state law, AHCCCS is now re-submitting the waiver amendment request titled “AHCCCS Works.”

AHCCCS Works

Program Goals and General Employment Philosophy

- Increase the number and percentage of “able-bodied adults” who are employed, actively seeking employment, and/or attending an employment support and development program.
- For all people, work is not just a paycheck. Having a job is about:
 - Fostering empowerment,
 - Community inclusion,
 - Reducing stigma,
 - Increasing self-sufficiency, and
 - Many more benefits!

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Existing Employment Programs

- Employment programs are not new to AHCCCS, employment services are administered in a few different ways including:
 - AHCCCS/Behavioral Health: Pre- and post-employment services for individuals eligible for behavioral health services.
 - AHCCCS/ALTCS: Pre- and post-employment services for individuals eligible for the Arizona Long-Term Care System.
- Additional Information can be found at the following link:
<https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Downloads/EmploymentServices.pdf>

AHCCCS Works

Medicaid Work Requirements

- AHCCCS Works would require non-exempt “*able-bodied*” adults between the ages of 19 and 55 to meet the following activities or combination of activities for at least 20 hours per week (80 hours per month) to qualify for AHCCCS coverage:
 1. Be employed (including self-employment),
 2. Actively seek employment,
 3. Attend school (less than full time),
 4. Participate in other employment readiness activities, i.e., job skills training, life skills training & health education, or
 5. Engage in Community Service.

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Medicaid Work Requirements

- Members subject to this requirement who do not qualify for an exemption and fail to meet the requirements will receive an initial 6-month grace period.
- Failure to comply after the grace period will result in a two-month suspension period of Medicaid coverage unless the member reports and verifies that there was a good cause for non-compliance or initiates an appeal of the suspension

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Lifetime Limit and Eligibility Ban

- AHCCCS is also proposing to implement the following for “able-bodied adults” pursuant to A.R.S § 36-2903.09:
 - A five-year maximum lifetime coverage limit for able-bodied adult members who are subject to the previously mentioned AHCCCS Works requirements and do not fall under one of the exemptions outlined.
 - The authority to ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if it is determined the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the AHCCCS Work requirements.

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Exemptions

In an effort to define “able-bodied” adults, the work requirements and lifetime limit will not apply to individuals who meet any of the following conditions:

- Individuals who are at least 56 years old;
- Individuals who qualify for services through the Indian Health Service or Tribally-Operated Health Facilities, including but not limited to enrolled or affiliate members of federally-recognized American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) Tribes;
- Women up to the end of the 12-month postpartum period;
- Former Arizona foster youths up to age 26;
- Individuals determined to have a serious mental illness (SMI);
- Individuals who are in active treatment with respect to a substance use disorder (SUD);
- Individuals currently receiving temporary or permanent long-term disability benefits from a private insurer or the government;

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AHCCCS Works Exemptions Cont.

- Individuals who are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Cash Assistance, or Unemployment Insurance income benefits;
- Individuals who are determined to be medically frail;
- Full-time high school students who are older than 18 years old;
- Full-time trade school, college or graduate students;
- Victims of domestic violence;
- Individuals who are homeless;
- Individuals who have recently been directly impacted by a catastrophic event;
- Parents, caretaker relatives, foster parents, and legal guardians;
- Individuals who are exempt from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Nutrition Assistance Work Requirement programs;
- Individuals who were incarcerated within the last six months;
- Veterans regardless of the discharge status; or
- Caregivers of a family member who is enrolled in ALTCS.

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Exemptions Cont.

- AHCCCS is also proposing a “good cause” exemption. Example circumstances giving rise to good cause may include:
 - The beneficiary has a disability and was unable to meet the requirement for reasons related to that disability;
 - The beneficiary resides with an immediate family member who has a disability and was unable to meet the requirement for reasons related to the disability of that family member;
 - Illness of a household or family member requiring the care of the beneficiary;
 - Illness of the beneficiary;
 - Severe inclement weather (including a natural disaster); or
 - A family emergency or other life-changing event.

AHCCCS Works

AHCCCS Works Cost Sharing

In addition pursuant to A.R.S § 36-2903.09, AHCCCS is proposing to implement cost sharing for the following:

- Non-Emergency use of the Emergency Department, and
- Non-Emergency use of ambulance transport when not medically necessary.

AHCCCS is proposing a post-visit medical review applied to the top 20% of ED utilizers. If services are determined to be inappropriately used, AHCCCS will issue three separate warnings before a copay in the amount of \$10 is imposed.



AHCCCS Works

AHCCCS Works FAQ

Q1: When will the AHCCCS Works program go live?

A1: The current AHCCCS Works program is in it's proposal stage and is still subject to CMS approval. If and when an approval is received, the agency will determine a timeline for implementation



AHCCCS Works

AHCCCS Works FAQ

Q2: What happens if a member does not report enough hours or misses the monthly deadline?

A2: Members subject to this requirement who do not qualify for an exemption and fail to meet the requirements will receive an initial six-month grace period. Failure to comply after the grace period will result in a two-month suspension period unless the member reports and verifies that there was a good cause for non-compliance or initiates an appeal of the suspension. If after the two-month suspension, the beneficiary meets all other eligibility criteria, eligibility will be automatically reinstated.

AHCCCS Works

Resources

- More information on the AHCCCS Works Waiver Amendment Request can be found at:
<https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Federal/ahcccsworks1115waiver.html>
- The web page includes a summary of Arizona's Demonstration amendment request & the schedule (dates and times) of public forums.

AHCCCS Works

Public Comments

- Public comments or written testimony may be submitted to AHCCCS via email to waiverpublicinput@azahcccs.gov or via mail to:
AHCCCS, C/O OOD-Division of Public Policy and Strategic Planning
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Comments will be received through March 20, 2025



Questions or Comments