[Recipient Name]
[Recipient Mailing Address]
[Mailing Address Line 2]
[Case Number or Other Identifier]
[Mailing Date]

NOTICE: New Medicaid Rule May Change Your Benefits
Group VIII Work and Community Engagement Requirement

You are getting this notice because you have Group VIII Medicaid. This notice explains what the new requirement means and how it applies to you. Please, do not ignore this and future letters from the Ohio Department of Medicaid, as it may impact your benefits.

Starting **January 1, 2027**, a new federal law will affect some adults who get Medicaid under the Group VIII category (also called MAGI Adult or Ribicoff coverage).

These adults will need to show they are working or taking part in approved community activities to keep Group VIII Medicaid coverage. This new rule is called the "Work and Community Engagement Requirement."

What is the Work and Community Engagement Requirement?

If the requirement applies to you, you must complete **at least 80 hours each month** of one or more approved activities such as work, education, job training, or community service.

Who has to meet this requirement?

This requirement applies to non-pregnant adults between the ages 19–64 who are enrolled in Group VIII coverage.

To see if you are in Group VIII, check your Notice of Action or visit the Ohio Medicaid Self-Service Portal online at https://ssp.benefits.ohio.gov/.

Who does NOT have to meet this requirement?

- You are a current or former foster child under age 26
- You are a parent, guardian, caretaker relative, or family caregiver of either:
    - A dependent child age 13 or younger, or

    - A disabled individual (including someone in another household, if you provide significant care)
- You are a veteran who is rated 100% disabled because of a service-connected condition
- You have a physical or mental health condition that keeps you from working or participating in other activities. This includes:
    - Blindness or disability as defined by the Social Security Administration
    - A substance use disorder
    - A disabling mental disorder
    - A physical, intellectual, or developmental disability that significantly limits activities of daily living
    - A serious or complex medical condition
- You are meeting SNAP or OWF work requirements
- You are participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program
- You are incarcerated or have recently been released
- You are pregnant or are in your 12-month postpartum period
- You are Native American, Urban Native American, or California Native American or otherwise eligible for the Indian Health Service

If one of the above situations doesn't apply to you now but recently applied to you, you can still be considered to meet the requirement. Make sure to report any of these situations that apply to you when you are applying or renewing your coverage.

You also will not have to complete activities to show that you are meeting the requirement for any month when:

- You are under age 19 or age 65 or older
- You qualify for Medicaid under a different coverage group
- You are entitled to or you have Medicare Part A
- You have Medicare Part B

If one of the above situations apply to you, you may need to provide proof. To help avoid delays:

- Make sure your county Job and Family Services office has your current address.
- Respond to any requests from the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

? What activities count?

You can meet the 80 hours per month requirement through:

- Work: Paid employment or self-employment, or unpaid work like caregiving, work in exchange for goods or housing, or an internship.
    - *People can meet this requirement by having a monthly income that is at least $580 (the federal minimum wage times 80 hours). Seasonal workers can use average monthly income to meet this requirement.*
- Community Service: Volunteer work through an organization, government agency, or religious group that helps your community. The organization cannot be for a political reason.
- Work Program Participation: Taking part in a recognized work program, such as those offered through Ohio Means Jobs.
- Education: Being enrolled *at least half-time* in high school, a GED course, college, or technical schools. The definition of half-time is determined by the school.
- Two or more of the activities above: Hours from two or more of the activities above can be combined to reach 80 hours in a month.

How do you show you met the requirement?

- Work: Documentation such as pay stubs or a statement from your employer.
- Community Service: A letter from the organization where you volunteered.
- Work Program Participation: A letter from the organization running the program.
- Education: Proof of enrollment or your class schedule.

When do you need to show proof?

- *If you are applying for Medicaid*: Show you met the requirement during the month before you applied.
- *If you are renewing your Medicaid coverage:* Show that you met the requirement for at least one month since your last application or renewal.
    - **Beginning January 1, 2027, federal law will **require renewals to take place every 6 months**. This is more frequent than the current 12-month renewal requirement.**
    - *Example*: If your last renewal was in January and you renew again in July, you must show that you were exempt or met the work requirement for at least one month between January and July.

What happens if you do not meet the requirement OR if you do not show proof that you do not have to meet the requirement?

- Your Medicaid application will be denied or your benefits will end.

- If this happens, you will receive a notice explaining the decision. If you disagree, you have the right to ask for a state hearing.
- You can apply for Medicaid again at any time.
- You will not qualify for the Advance Premium Tax Credit or Premium Tax Credit to help pay for coverage on a health insurance exchange like healthcare.gov.

Reminder to Report Changes

Tell your county Job and Family Services office within 10 days if you have changes in income, where you live, who lives with you, or pregnancy. You may need to provide proof.

To report changes, you can:

- Use the Self-Service Portal by clicking on the "Access Ohio Benefits Self-Service Portal" (preferred) at https://benefits.ohio.gov
- Mail or take documents to your county Job & Family Services office.
    - You can find your local CDJFS office information at https://benefits.ohio.gov in the "Find Your Local County Agency" section at the bottom of the webpage.
- Call (800) 324-8680 or your local county Job & Family Services office.

For more details or help with Medicaid:

- Visit the Ohio Department of Medicaid's Community Engagement webpage at: https://medicaid.ohio.gov/resources-for-providers/special-programs-and-initiatives/group-viii.
- Call your local County Department of Jobs and Family Services for details or help. Find your agency online at: https://jfs.ohio.gov/about/local-agencies-directory .
    - If you still need resource assistance, call 211 for help.
- For help finding employment, reach out to your local OhioMeansJobs Center: https://ohiomeansjobs.ohio.gov/job-seekers/find-a-job/local-help .