

### Talking Points re: Medicaid Work Requirements

- The desire to impose work requirements on Medicaid beneficiaries is borne out of a misperception of who these folks are.
- Work requirements are a potentially big solution to a small problem. Of Missouri's 991,000 Medicaid beneficiaries, only 99,463 are non-disabled adults, many of whom are primary caregivers for young children OR already working. HCF estimates that there are only 20,000 to 25,000 current Medicaid beneficiaries who are not already working in intermittent or seasonal work, caregiving, or who have significant medical issues making full time work impossible.
- Adding work requirements to Missouri's Medicaid program creates layers of bureaucracy in a program that is already complicated to navigate and difficult to administer. Can the Department of Social Services really track work by beneficiaries?
- Although work requirements are intended to impact a narrow swath of Medicaid recipients, it seems likely that they would create additional red-tape for all participants and for the state.
- Any work requirements implemented would likely result in litigation, as has already been filed in Kentucky.
- Connecting low-income Missourians with stable employment is a worthwhile goal, but Medicaid work requirements won't solve the labor market problems that low-income parents face.
- If we want to encourage low-income parents to work, we should increase access to job training programs, quality employment opportunities, and excellent education.

### Talking Points re: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Work Requirements

- SNAP's primary purpose is to increase the food purchasing power of eligible low-income households to improve their nutrition and alleviate hunger and malnutrition. It is not designed as a jobs program.
  - There is **already** a work requirement for food stamps. Under current law, non-disabled adults without dependents can get food stamps for only three months in a three-year period. After that, applicants must work a minimum of 80 hours a month or take part in job training to qualify for continued SNAP benefits.
  - Two out of three food stamp recipients are children, the disabled or those over 50 years of age, so they're exempt from work requirements. Among SNAP households subject to a work requirement, **more than half work while receiving SNAP** — and more than 80 percent work in the year prior to or the year after receiving SNAP. The rates are even higher for families with children — more than 60 percent work while receiving SNAP, and almost 90 percent work in the prior or subsequent year.
  - Rigorous evaluations of SNAP work requirements demonstrate that work requirements don't produce long-term gains in employment and may drive families further into poverty. Work-related earnings gains are often offset in part by reductions in cash assistance payments and SNAP benefits.
  - Too many disadvantaged individuals want to work but can't find jobs for reasons that work requirements don't solve: low skills or education; unaffordable and/or unsafe child care; quality job opportunities.
- 