

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 CFR § 431.408, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) is providing public notice of its plan to submit an amendment to the 1115(a) demonstration waiver. The OHCA currently has an approved 1115(a) waiver and a pending renewal request for the 2019-2021 period.

With this amendment request, OHCA seeks approval of the following modifications to the demonstration for the 2019-2021 extension period:

Beginning on or after February 1, 2019, the state will implement work/community engagement requirements for certain individuals related to Oklahoma Medicaid eligibility. As a condition of eligibility for Oklahoma SoonerCare benefits, applicants or existing members, not otherwise exempted, age 19-50 must provide verification of employment or community engagement in specified educational, job training or job search activities for at least 80 hours per month. Individuals will have a 90 day grace period to provide proof of meeting conditions of work/community engagement requirements.

SoonerCare work/community engagement activities are modeled in accordance with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) currently operational in Oklahoma. Work/community engagement requirements for new or continued SoonerCare eligibility are set out below:

1. Work an average of twenty (20) hours or more per week, each month. The employment may be paid, in-kind, unpaid, or volunteer work; or
2. Participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program twenty (20) hours or more per week. The individual may participate in at least twenty (20) hours or more per week with the:
 - (a) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program; or
 - (b) The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program; or
 - (c) The SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Program. Job search or job search training activities, when offered as part of other E&T program components, are acceptable as long as those activities comprise less than half the total required time spent in the components; or
3. Participate in community service programs at least twenty (20) hours or more per week, or twenty (20) hours averaged monthly with religious or community organizations; or
4. Meet any combination of work, participating in work training or volunteering for work, twenty (20) hours or more per week, averaged monthly.

Exemptions

Certain individuals may be exempted from the above requirements. For a complete list of individuals who are exempt from the SoonerCare work/community engagement requirements please refer to the www.okhca.org website and click on the Medicaid Work Requirements banner.

It is the intent of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to submit the amendment no later than October 1, 2018 with an effective date of February 1, 2019. The initial budget impact for system modifications is estimated at \$700,000 total dollars with \$70,000 of the total being state share. However, additional dollars are anticipated to be expended for the administration of the program but an exact amount is unknown at this time.

The OHCA expects to conduct several public meetings around the state during the months of July-September. The agency held the required Tribal Consultation meeting on July 11, 2018. As of this date, the OHCA has scheduled two public meetings, please see below for dates, times and locations. Information on additional meetings will be provided on the agency's public website as future dates and times are determined.

July 11, 2018 11:00 a.m.
Tribal Consultation
Ed McFall Boardroom
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

July 19, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.
Medical Advisory Committee
Ed McFall Boardroom
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

August 10, 2018 11:30 a.m.
OU Sooner Health Access Network
OU – Tulsa Schusterman Center – Learning Center
4502 E. 41st Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma

The OHCA welcomes comments from the public regarding the amendment to the SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver program. The application waiver will be posted online at www.okhca.org from July 3, 2018 through September 3, 2018.

Comments and questions may be submitted online through the Policy Change Blog or the Native American Consultation Blog at www.okhca.org by clicking the Medicaid Work Requirements banner or by written comment at 4345 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

Comments may also be made at www.medicaid.gov after the amendment has been submitted to CMS on or after October 1, 2018.