

State Approaches to Implementation of HR1

Advocacy Strategies and Best Practices

State advocates can use administrative advocacy to encourage and help state agencies:

Enact Supportive Medicaid Policies

- ☐ **Invest in growth and training for health navigator programs** (in some states part of community health centers), including targeted navigators for high-need groups (e.g. child care workers)
- ☐ **Increase the share of ex parte renewals** by accessing additional data sources and making system improvements will lower the share of enrollees losing coverage due to procedural reasons.
- ☐ **Use technology** to automatically determine if an adult in the expansion population complies with or is exempt from work reporting requirements is critical to avoid unnecessary loss of coverage. Automating straightforward tasks like using an income proxy of 80 hours at the federal minimum wage (currently \$580 per month) or exempting parents with dependent children under age 14 will free up staff time to deal with more complex situations.
- ☐ **Partner closely with managed care plans** and/or providers to help identify innovative ways to ease the administrative burden on enrollees with disabilities, mental health or substance use disorders, medically frail, and other circumstances that will be more challenging for states to automate.
- ☐ **Improve the readability of notices**, which has been a longstanding problem in Medicaid, and supplement information with online FAQs and social media will help applicants and enrollees understand the changes and what they need to do.
- ☐ **Provide self-help tools** such as online tutorials or step-by-step instructions on how to apply and renew coverage reduces the demand for consumer assistance.
- ☐ Engage health plans, providers, and community partners to reinforce state communications and assist individuals with applications or renewals extends the state's reach into the community through trusted messengers.

Protect Access to SNAP

- ☐ **Increase or eliminate asset limits, particularly of savings amounts.** Doing so reduces administrative tasks at a time when they are likely to overwhelm staff, and supports families' prospects for economic mobility.
- ☐ **Encourage the piloting of technology solutions to address SNAP error rates in the near future,** to address the error rates as soon as possible and avoid cost-sharing rates based on either 2025 or 2026 for most states. In order to ensure that needed technology solutions are responsibly deployed with appropriate motivation and in a timely manner, encourage the use of pro bono tools developed by reputable academic institutions, possibly in close partnership with for profit vendors if required.
- ☐ **Facilitate exemptions from work requirements:** Provide forms for medical providers to document medical exemptions proactively for recipients in case they lose employment, to minimize the disruption of benefit access (e.g., Pennsylvania). Provide portals where recipients can upload documentation of exemptions from work requirements (e.g., Tennessee).

Expand and Improve Funding

- ☐ **Model fiscal impact:** Work with budget officers to model the fiscal impact of the bill and advocate for sufficient funding to maintain access to programs.
- ☐ **Educate legislators:** Hold briefings for state legislators to ensure they understand the fiscal and human impact of the bill on their constituents.
- ☐ **Join or create a revenue coalition, keep lists of available progressive revenue measures handy for opportunity windows more likely to gain traction as budget strains grow.**
- ☐ **Call for use, creation or expansion of reserve funds.**
 - ☐ **Medicaid Trust Funds:** New Mexico [enacted a law](#) this year creating a Medicaid trust fund gradually stocked with up to \$2 billion that can be tapped to prop up the program if federal funding cuts would otherwise cause a reduction in coverage or benefits.
 - ☐ **Rainy-day funds and targeted reserve funds** earmarked for priorities such as disaster response and recovery or educational funding.
 - ☐ **Require transparency from state administrative sources on unspent TANF block grant funds from previous years.** These funds are ideal in emergency situations and in some states may total hundreds of millions of dollars. But they may be “tied up in paper” and in some states, accounting processes are not clear.

Understand and Use Technology and data

- ☐ **Monitor public investments in automated systems:** Implement sophisticated, automated systems that can handle the new requirements efficiently. (Warning: healthy scrutiny of contractors is important as companies line up to be the “silver bullet” solution.)
- ☐ **Ensure technologies have human input and human output in decisionmaking as they are leveraged.** Leverage tools like AI and predictive modeling to streamline workflows and manage new verification mandates, but ensure checks and balances and careful regard for data privacy.
- ☐ **Seek to Increase data access:** Increase the use of data sources to automatically renew benefits where possible, reducing the number of people losing coverage for procedural reasons.
- ☐ **Gather data** on where children are served and sources of funding for providers
- ☐ **Map the Impact of Cuts.** [California](#) has held public webinars to explain how H.R. 1 harms SNAP, Medicaid, and other critical programs. Use similar platforms to highlight the harm in your own state.
- ☐ **Root-cause analysis of top errors** in, for example, wages, shelter costs, household composition.
- ☐ **Regular coordination between SNAP policy and quality control teams** to discuss trends in payment accuracy.
- ☐ **In county-administered states, regular coordination** between the state and county quality control teams to develop strategies and identify best practices.
- ☐ **Encourage the state to create cross-functional and cross-agency work groups** OR (if needed) set the table to bring system leaders together with advocates to assess impact, interpret policy, and plan for implementation (e.g. work requirements and the impact on pregnant women, child care workers, families with young children— making sure exemptions work, seamless reporting, etc) .
- ☐ **Invest in automated systems:** Implement sophisticated, automated systems that can handle the new requirements efficiently.

Improve Applications and Renewal Processes

- ☐ **Encourage the state to create broad definitions of work** and how to meet work requirements: A new toolkit developed by Manatt Health highlights [potential data sources for verifying compliance with work reporting requirements and exemptions for enrollees](#) which states can use to identify data sources that will require new IT builds.
- ☐ **Simplify enrollment and renewals to the extent possible:** States must simplify eligibility rules and reduce barriers to enrollment, including aligning renewal policies for different groups. States can modernize state benefits enrollment portals, create full-time call centers, set up audit and appeals processes, hire compliance review teams, train local organizers/navigators to provide tech and enrollment assistance, send letters alerting enrollees to the new policy (make them [attention-grabbing and easier](#) to understand).
- ☐ **Automate processes:** Use technology to automate tasks like work requirement verification and income proxies to free up staff for complex cases.
- ☐ **Improve program transitions and coordinate applications:** Facilitate seamless transitions between Medicaid, CHIP, CCDBG, and Basic Health Programs and design programs to support data sharing to allow one-stop applications for multiple programs.
- ☐ **Automatic confirmation via data collection/secondary data sources:** As learned in [Michigan](#), state employment and wage data can help mitigate harm by confirming employment without the enrollee having to act.
- ☐ **Reduce barriers for certain groups:** Work with managed care plans and providers to find ways to ease administrative burdens/verify exemptions for pregnant women, parents/caregivers, individuals with disabilities, mental health issues, or other challenges.

Focus on Outreach and Communication

- ☐ **Conduct extensive outreach:** Inform potentially affected individuals about new community engagement requirements, how to comply, exemptions, and the consequences of noncompliance.
- ☐ **Identify and fund navigators:** Use child care providers, health care providers, home visitors, schools, and other social service agencies to provide information about enrollment and eligibility for programs, support work requirement documentation, and to ensure that families meet certification timelines.
- ☐ **Use multiple communication methods:** Reach out through a combination of methods, such as mail, email, text messages, and phone calls. Consider the use of AI to remind recipients of recertification deadlines.
- ☐ **Mandatory Job Assistance for Medicaid:** Kentucky is aiming to become the first state that will automatically ferry certain Medicaid beneficiaries to a job placement assistance program, according to a Medicaid [waiver](#) application. Kentucky's program is unique because it establishes an automatic process for referring individuals to these work assistance programs. Kentucky is seeking a five-year trial period under what's known as a Section 1115 special demonstration waiver. The waivers allow states to experiment with initiatives that forgo certain statutory requirements of Medicaid if the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services finds that the initiative promotes the program's objectives.
- ☐ **Collaborate With Retailers and Farmers:** Cuts to SNAP will ripple through grocery stores, farmers' markets, and supply chains, especially in [rural areas](#) and small towns where food retailers depend heavily on SNAP sales. Partner with retailers to document revenue losses and amplify their voices in policy debates. Farmers and producers can also be strong messengers about the harm to local economies.

Build State Staff Capacity

- **Build capacity**, including training and equipping staff to take over responsibilities previously managed by federal agencies.
- **Making statutory and administrative** changes in hiring and procurement rules to replace critical resources such as federal support teams and other “just-in-time” program staff.
- **Staff and supervisor training** including developing training teams, standardized training, training guides, second party review of new staff cases prior to certification, use of case examples, video training on error trends, monthly emails identifying common errors and steps to avoid them.
- **Staff retention efforts** including salary increases.
- **System modernization** including precertification tools, error proofing tools.

Invest in Economic Supports for Families

- **CTC “Baby Bonus”**: Make the credit available for all newborns, so that every newborn child’s family would get the full credit for their first year. This could be considered a CTC-based “baby bonus”.
- **Allow full refundability** of CTC as long as parent earnings are above the minimum (\$2,500/year).
- **Phase in refundability** from the first dollar of parent earnings.
- **Allow full refundability** for families with multiple children.
- **Enact loan forgiveness programs** for early childhood providers.