

# Community Questions Proposed AHCCCS Care Program

## The Hertel Report

---

Gov. Doug Ducey is looking to move Arizona's expanded Medicaid program in a more conservative direction, proposing work requirements, copays, HSAs and a five-year limit on benefits.

Called AHCCCS Care, Ducey's plan was recently discussed at several community meetings, where it met great resistance from attendees, who fear it will decrease access to care.

The proposed changes could impact 350,000 adults eligible for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

Ducey says the program, which includes something similar to a health savings account, allows Arizonans to "take charge of their own health" and rewards personal responsibility. Contributions to AHCCCS Care accounts could be used for services not currently covered by Medicaid, including dental, vision, weight loss and more.

The state's plan to modify its Medicaid program will be submitted by AHCCCS as a waiver request to CMS this fall.

The most controversial provisions of the program, and the least likely to gain federal approval, are the maximum five year lifetime limit on benefits and the work requirement. At least 10 other GOP-dominated states are seeking to tie Medicaid to work.

Adults enrolled in the program would be responsible for:

**Co-pays of up to 3 percent** of their household income for

Non-emergency use of ER

Missed appointments

Visiting a specialist before seeing a PCP

Prescribed opioids

**Paying 2 percent of their income** into an HSA for uncovered medical, dental or vision

**Actively pursuing employment**  
**Meeting specified health goals**

Attendees expressed concern that some people are deemed able-bodied but due to mental illness, disability or other reasons, are very limited in what they can do for work.

Cost sharing was another point of contention, with attendees questioning whether this population can support even modest payments. The program, for example, would require an individual earning about \$15,500 a year in income to pay a monthly premium of about \$26.

In the next year, AHCCCS will work with CMS to negotiate the terms of the next waiver. AHCCCS will consider public comments received by Sept. 25 for its final proposal to CMS.

*The Hertel Report*  
[www.thehertelreport.com](http://www.thehertelreport.com)