



Moving Alaskans from Welfare to Work and Protecting the Safety Net for the Truly Needy

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Overview

Alaska has a great opportunity to move thousands of Alaskans from welfare to work and to further protect the state's safety net for the truly needy who rely on public assistance. This memo will outline a set of initial policy recommendations that Alaska should consider as they develop a path forward to help low-income residents in the state achieve self-sufficiency.

While there are still scattered regional economic challenges, at 6.4 percent unemployment, Alaska is near its all-time low unemployment of 6.3 percent.¹ Alaska has nearly 14,000 open jobs available and is in need of workers.²

To help infuse the Alaska economy with more able workers and to ensure that able-bodied adults receiving welfare are taking steps towards self-sufficiency, Alaska needs to focus its attention on the many optional work requirements available in the three major welfare programs. In other states that have maximized their use of these requirements there have been great results. For example, when Maine implemented work requirements in welfare, the caseload dropped by 90 percent and the incomes of those leaving welfare doubled within one year.³

After welfare work requirements went into effect in Florida, enrollment declined by more than 90 percent, with former welfare recipients going back to work in more than 1,000 different industries. Previously, only 10 percent of able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) moved off the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) after one month of benefits, but the work requirement increased that number to nearly 40 percent, helping move people quickly from welfare to work.⁴

Under previous federal administrations, there has been reluctance and even outright hostility towards states that make an effort to move more people off welfare and into the workforce. However, under the Trump administration, the approach to reducing dependency has shifted dramatically, with direction from all three major federal welfare agencies—the Administration for Children Families (ACF), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Center for Medicaid and Medicaid Services (CMS)—focused on helping to return individuals to self-sufficiency.

Alaska is not yet taking advantage of this opportunity. As seen in Table 1 below, there are major gaps in Alaska's application of allowed work and community engagement requirements. This leads to a fragmented system in which only some individuals—those on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which has a federally mandated work requirement—are required to work or be in training. Alaska is leaving on the table many opportunities to expand this into other welfare programs.



Table 1: Alaska is not using optional work requirements

Program	Demographic	Alaska’s work requirement/community engagement
SNAP	Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD), ages 18-49	None (waived)
SNAP	Able-bodied adults without dependents, ages 50-59	None
SNAP	Able-bodied adults with only school-age dependents	None
TANF	Able-bodied adults with dependents over age 1	30 hours per week (two-parent family), or 20 hours per week (single-parent family), or participation in approved education or training. Non-compliance results in sanction.
Medicaid	Able-bodied adults with dependents over age 1	None
Medicaid	Able-bodied adults without dependents	None

For example, right now in Alaska, a 25-year-old single mom with two kids on the TANF program would be required to work 20 hours per week or engage in sanctioned education or training components of TANF. At the same time, a single and childless 25-year-old man on SNAP has no requirement whatsoever.

This also means that the same 25-year-old will not be connected to the many resources Alaska has to offer him to assist him in earning more income. The same would be true for a 30-year-old on Medicaid or SNAP. They have no requirement to work or be in training, and as a result, they are not being exposed to Alaska’s services in this area at the level they should be.



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This is unfortunate because studies have shown that states that adopt work requirements in welfare for able-bodied adults are helping those adults increase their incomes by double or triple within just a year or two after leaving welfare.⁵

Alaska also has an opportunity to greatly strengthen program integrity in the major welfare programs. FGA has reviewed Alaska's major welfare programs and the various state options available to the state and has several recommendations to offer in two key areas: 1) Moving able-bodied adults from welfare to work and, 2) Protecting the safety net for the truly needy by stopping fraud. Taking positive steps in both of these categories will help Alaska save taxpayers' dollars and move able-bodied adults off welfare and back into work and self-sufficiency.

Moving Able-Bodied Adults from Welfare to Work and Preventing Chronic Dependency

Recommendation 1: Reinstate work requirements in SNAP for able-bodied adults with no dependents

Federal food stamp law requires that able-bodied adults ages 18-49, with no dependents in the house (ABAWDs), work at least 20 hours per week, or be in training or volunteer, in order to receive their food stamp benefit. Many states have suspended this requirement in certain parts of their state through a waiver of the rule that is requested of the federal government. Alaska, however, is one of just four states that has waived this requirement statewide.⁶⁻⁷

While these waivers of the requirement were more widespread, and defensible, during the period of the great recession in the late-2000s and early 2010s, there is no valid rationale to employ the waivers now during a period of extremely low unemployment and with a record number of job openings across the country.⁸ In fact, the United States Department of Agriculture has recently announced a rule change that would result in far fewer waivers being granted.⁹

Alaska is even waiving work requirements for all 22,000 ABAWDs in the state,¹⁰ even in boroughs where there is very low unemployment, including in Anchorage, Juneau City and Borough, and Denali, which have unemployment rates of just 5.2 percent, 4.3 percent, and 3.9 percent respectively.¹¹

The worst part of waiving this important requirement is that Alaska is missing out on the benefits other states have seen from implementing these same requirements. And since 87 percent of Alaska ABAWDs do not work at all, it is critically important.¹² As discussed above, studies in Maine and Florida proved that requirements dropped enrollment dramatically and increased incomes. A similar study in Arkansas showed that *incomes of those leaving welfare tripled* just two years after work requirements went into effect.¹³ Alaska can achieve these same results by ending their waiver of the ABAWD work requirement.

Next steps: Reinstate the ABAWD work requirement by eliminating the current waiver request to suspend it statewide in Alaska. This can be done very simply by not renewing the waiver that has been submitted annually to the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services. Then Alaska can provide notice to ABAWD's they must comply with the requirement. Those who fail to comply for 3-months out of a 36-month period will be removed from the program.

Recommendation 2: Establish work/community engagement requirement for able-bodied adults 50-59 years old on SNAP with no dependents

As discussed above, when states establish effective work requirements for ABAWDs, they benefit from a decrease in caseload in their SNAP program and a return to work for thousands of adults in thousands of different industries. There is an additional population on SNAP that is demographically similar to ABAWDs but also has no work requirement in Alaska. These are able-bodied adults with no dependents who are ages 50 to 59. These slightly older ABAWDs have “aged out” of the ABAWD work requirement. Alaska does not have “Mandatory Employment and Training.” The net effect is that these adults—despite being able to work and having no dependents—are not required to work or be moving to work.

According to USDA data, Alaska has 3,300 able-bodied adults ages 50-59 with no kids in the household.¹⁴ While Alaska cannot apply the precise ABAWD work requirement to this population, it is possible to require that if individuals are not working 30 hours per week that they participate in Alaska’s well established SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program, take part in other sanctioned education or training programs, or volunteer in the community as little as 8 or 9 hours per month depending on their SNAP benefit level. The option to require this effort as a condition of SNAP eligibility is explicitly allowed in federal SNAP law.¹⁵

Next steps: Alaska already has an established pathway for these adults to be referred to work or training programs offered through the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development under the SNAP E&T plan. Alaska could also consider adding “workfare” as a component to allow individuals to volunteer as little as a few hours a week in order to meet the requirement. Alaska can simply include these older ABAWDs in the “Mandatory E&T” population to begin requiring work or community engagement for this group. This can be done administratively through the SNAP E&T plan.

Recommendation 3: Establish a work/community engagement requirement for able-bodied parents on SNAP who have only school-aged children in the household

Similar to the older ABAWD population described above, Alaska also has a significant population of able-bodied parents on food stamps who are not included in any work requirement. SNAP E&T services may be available to them, but since there is no requirement for any type of work or community engagement, voluntary participation in E&T programs by this group is minimal.

Just like the older ABAWDs described above, SNAP law and regulation allows states to make participation in SNAP E&T mandatory for able-bodied parents who are not working.¹⁶ This provision is restricted to those parents who only have school-aged children (ages 6 and over) in the household. This helps to ensure that those parents have—at a minimum—school hours during the week when they are not responsible for child care so they can work, or meet the requirement through E&T participation, or other state-sanctioned activities that count towards meeting the requirement.¹⁷ **Alaska has 6,100 able-bodied parents with only kids 6 or over in the household.**

This work/community engagement is critical to ensuring that the generational cycle of poverty is broken. Exempting parents from this requirement runs counter to the stated goal of the program to try and move

families into self-sufficiency. While some states have argued that child care availability is a major barrier to implementing this provision, research shows that Alaska offers subsidies for child care for most, if not all, of this population, covering families up to 216% of the federal poverty limit (FPL) for initial application and ongoing eligibility for child care.¹⁸ Alaska also transfers \$8.9 million of its \$44 million TANF block to the Child Care Development Fund, presumably for child care assistance for these families and others.¹⁹

Next steps: Alaska can begin to move these adults into mandatory E&T status by including them through the SNAP E&T plan administratively. If a phased-in approach is necessary, Alaska could consider starting with parents who only have children 12-years-old or older in the household, or target certain geographic regions where employers are particularly desperate for workers, or where there is immediate proximity to one of the 14 job centers operated by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development across the state..

Recommendation 4: Lower the lifetime limit for TANF benefits from five years to three years

Alaska currently limits beneficiaries to five years of TANF benefits in a lifetime, which is the federal maximum.²⁰ 17 states have a stricter lifetime limit than Alaska.²²

Other states have taken greater advantage of federal flexibility to set their own time limits lower than Alaska's. For example, Kansas has a two-year lifetime limit, and Arizona has a one-year lifetime limit. These states prioritize limited welfare resources for those in temporary need and to prevent dependency.

About 80 percent of TANF recipients in Alaska have received benefits for less than three years total. 21.6 percent of beneficiaries have received benefits for over three years.²³

Under some special circumstances, many of these families can still be eligible to receive extended benefits and join the 5.7 percent of beneficiaries who have already exceeded the five-year federal lifetime limit based on permissible exemptions.

Next steps: Alaska will likely need legislative action to lower the lifetime TANF limit from 60 months to 36 months.

Recommendation 5: Include an intermittent time limit in the TANF program to prevent chronic dependency

Along with the lifetime time limit, TANF programs can be tailored to include an intermittent time limit that helps ensure a family does not become chronically dependent on welfare and has the added benefit of protecting some lifetime months for the family to use later on if they are in need of additional assistance. Ten states utilize intermittent time limits by either placing a periodic time limit or a benefit waiting period.²⁴ For example, Rhode Island, which has a 48-month lifetime time limit, also limits receipt of the TANF benefit to 24 months out of any 60-month period. North Carolina allows only 24 months of benefits before a lockout period of 36 months.

Some states customize this policy further. For example, for two-parent, non-disabled families in Arizona, TANF can only be received for 6-months out of any 12-month period. These policies reflect the reality that TANF is

meant to be a temporary and intermittent support, not one that individuals stay on until the lifetime limit is exhausted.²⁵ There must be a sense of urgency to move individuals from welfare to work.

Next steps: This time limit will likely need to be set through legislative authority, although the department could explore its flexibility to enact this administratively.

Recommendation 6: Adopt work/community engagement requirements for able-bodied adults on Medicaid

Since the Trump administration notified states that they would accept requests for Medicaid work requirements, at least 17 states have requested some form of work requirement through an 1115 waiver request, with eight already approved. This includes non-expansion states Wisconsin and Maine.²⁶ While Kentucky, Arkansas, and New Hampshire have been forced to pause their work requirements temporarily, several other states including Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan have approved work requirements that have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

Prior to the court pausing the requirement in Arkansas, the results of Medicaid work requirements were reversing the dependency problem in their Medicaid program. After work requirements were implemented, more than 138,000 people left the program, with 83 percent of those leaving for increased incomes, or reasons other than failure to comply with the requirement.²⁷

In part because Alaska has expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, Alaska’s program has grown dramatically. Alaska currently has enrolled over 60,000 able-bodied adults in the program originally meant for the elderly, disabled, and poor children.

With over 60,000 able-bodied adults now on Medicaid, Alaska’s program has added dramatically to the state budget. The percentage of Alaska’s budget allotted to Medicaid has more than doubled – from 9.3 percent in 2000 to 21 percent in 2018.²⁸⁻²⁹ The same principles also apply to the Medicaid work requirement as the food stamp requirements. The goal is not punitive but is designed to ensure that individuals on the program are engaged with the many resources offered for work training, or a connection to open jobs. This has resulted in dramatically increased incomes across other welfare programs.

The state has some options regarding the construction of the community engagement requirement. Alabama’s waiver serves as a good example of a simply-constructed waiver that takes advantage of the existing requirements and infrastructure already found in TANF to streamline the process.³⁰ By aligning the various work requirements across welfare programs, Alaska can limit fragmentation and avoid any potential confusion. This will ensure all able-bodied recipients are receiving the same notices and the same opportunity to access work supports.

Next steps: To implement work requirements in Medicaid, Alaska will need to develop and file an 1115 waiver request with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Many states have done this without legislative authority. For implementing any work supports that would be needed as part of a requirement, CMS has instructed states that it is appropriate to tap into existing sources such as TANF funding in order to help get Medicaid recipients back to work through the requirement.³¹



Protecting the Safety Net for the Truly Needy

Recommendation 7: Require full change reporting in SNAP to ensure all changes are reported in a timely manner

Alaska currently operates reporting in SNAP with “simplified reporting” for “all households.”³² Simplified reporting allows individuals receiving food stamps to avoid reporting changes unless “total monthly gross income exceeds 130% of the Federal Poverty Level.”³³ This amounts to essentially a non-requirement because recipients either do not know or can claim they do not know what that exact threshold is or when they hit it in a given time period. Until a full redetermination is done, changes in income or household circumstance are often not caught, if they even are at that time. Redeterminations for able-bodied adults are done only semi-annually—at most—resulting in an alarming level of potential for overpayments, both unintentional and outright fraudulent.

Next steps: Alaska should notify USDA and promulgate rules requiring all changes in a SNAP recipient’s situation, including income or household changes, be reported within ten days.

Recommendation 8: Monitor and stop inappropriate out of state electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card use and remove non-residents

Alaska has a vast data set that it is likely being underutilized for purposes of fraud detection. The SNAP program, which distributes nearly \$200 million each year,³⁴ and the TANF program, which distributes more than \$50 million in cash assistance, both utilize the “Quest” EBT card in Alaska. These cards generate a significant amount of data that may be used proactively to detect various types of fraud. The card swipes leave an instance of data that shows the details of a transaction, much like a debit or credit card. While Alaska does report to use this data in investigations and to detect some higher-level fraud, it does not appear to use the data to the fullest extent possible.³⁵

One of these key opportunity areas is utilizing the data to determine Alaska recipients of SNAP and TANF who may actually live outside of Alaska or who are trafficking their card to someone who lives outside of Alaska. This can be determined simply by monitoring those cards which are only swiped outside of Alaska for two consecutive months. These cases can then be contacted for the purpose of unenrollment as a result of living outside Alaska—or, alternatively—to resolve the issue. Maine found millions in benefits in each program being spent outside of Maine, and a recent Missouri audit found that SNAP recipients used their EBT cards to spend \$16 million “exclusively outside the state for 90 days or longer” because they had no proper checks in place.³⁶⁻³⁷

Next steps: Alaska can simply and effectively stop this fraud by monitoring EBT transactions that are occurring out of state. A simple report run monthly will generate a list of those SNAP or TANF recipients who have used their card exclusively outside of Alaska for 2 (or 3) months in a row. These individuals should be then sent a letter requesting they contact DHSS within 10 days to discuss concerns with their case related to their residency. Those individuals who can verify residency remain on the program, while those unresponsive or without good cause for the out-of-state activity are removed. Importantly, many of these cases may also have Medicaid cases open – and those that have failed to report they are no longer Alaska resident will also be removed from Medicaid, saving state dollars.

Recommendation 9: Require additional verification of household composition for Medicaid eligibility

Alaska does not proactively verify or check on reported household composition, a major factor in determining eligibility for welfare programs, including Medicaid. Alaska allows applicants to “self-attest” the makeup of their household, but misrepresenting household composition is one of the most common reasons that fraud occurs.³⁸ This happens because if another adult in the house earns income that would make the applicant ineligible, they are motivated to exclude that adult from the household. Without verification, this fraud is easily perpetrated. For example, a Maine woman stole more than \$250,000 in Medicaid, food stamps, and other benefits when she intentionally failed to disclose that her husband lived with her.³⁹

By specifically looking for information to verify household composition by checking bank account data, vehicle ownership, property ownership, federal tax returns, and other data that can be delivered through a private third-party data company, Alaska could identify this type of fraud at the outset. If it is necessary to narrow the scope slightly, Alaska can begin by targeting zero income households, or households that report expenses exceed income.

Next steps: At a minimum, Alaska should begin checking Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles records against reported members of a household upon application for Medicaid and other welfare programs. Real property ownership is a key way to verify who may reside in the applying household. Phase two of this verification could extend to databases such as bank accounts and other property ownership like homes or land. Alaska could also review marriage records, social media accounts, and tax records when red flags occur during a front-end check.

Recommendation 10: Check income sources, vital records, and other data to verify Medicaid eligibility

Medicaid expansion in Alaska has caused enrollment to skyrocket. Alaska’s Medicaid program has grown significantly in both enrollment and cost in recent years. Alaska spends nearly 300 percent more in state funds on Medicaid than the state did in 2000.⁴⁰ Overall enrollment has increased by 72 percent since ObamaCare was passed, and Alaska elected to expand Medicaid to able-bodied adults.⁴¹ Alaska had added nearly 40,000 able-bodied adults to the program by the end of 2017, a number that some have estimated is now 50,000.⁴²⁻⁴³ For Medicaid expansion states like Alaska, fraud is a major problem as thousands of new enrollees applied to the program—and basic checks were often ignored.

Along with verifying household composition as described in recommendation 9 above, Alaska also should be checking several other data sets in order to protect the Medicaid safety net. These checks could save Alaska more than \$100 million over a four-year period:⁴⁴

- **Internal Revenue Service Income - Alaska does not review IRS data at application and doesn’t review enough data for income verification.**⁴⁵ Failing to review available income data allows applicants to report making no income even if they have earnings, allowing access to the program inappropriately. An audit in Louisiana just found that they wasted a projected \$85 million in their Medicaid program as a result of failing to check IRS and other data for wages and earnings.⁴⁶ Alaska should use available IRS data to check applicant reports of income level. Alaska should also use third-party data to find other sources of income that may not be reported by the applicant.

- **Death Records - Alaska does not use state vital records to check records and does not check death records often enough.**⁴⁷ While Alaska does use the Social Security Administration death data to check applicants at application and recertification, they do not use the states own vital records, which may prove timelier and more accurate. They also check only at application, and since Medicaid is recertified just once every 12 months, there are lengthy gaps. Alaska should use state vital records as a secondary match for death records of applicants and should use those records at least quarterly to review all current welfare recipients to ensure they are living.
- **Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) - Alaska does not check DMV data at all.**⁴⁸ Failure to check DMV records allows for false attestation of real property ownership. This means someone can easily claim they own no vehicles, RV's, four-wheelers, snowmobiles, boats, or other assets registered with the state. While the value of those assets may not directly impact eligibility, ownership records often highlight household composition concerns or red flags about reported income levels. Alaska should review DMV records of applicants at application and recertification and review the entire caseload of both Medicaid and Food Stamps at least quarterly. Discrepancies in real property ownership are major red flags for fraud.
- **Alternative Medical Coverage - Alaska does not do the required check for alternative forms of health insurance.**⁴⁹ This happens specifically in the CHIP program in Medicaid. Alaska is forgoing the required check on whether the child applying has alternative coverage. *Alaska should check whether applicants for the CHIP program have any other form of medical insurance before granting eligibility.*

Next steps: Alaska should begin checking basic, available data sources to make sure that those individuals signing up for Medicaid are actually eligible. This has huge potential cost savings and ensures program integrity. The Medicaid Department can enter into simple data sharing agreements with any of these government entities to quickly gain access to the data required to complete the verification checks.

Recommendation 11: Redetermine the eligibility of Medicaid cases more than once annually

According to recent federal audits, more than 10 percent of Medicaid spending at the state and federal level are fraudulent.⁵⁰ These improper payments are primarily driven by eligibility errors, with 62 percent the result of incorrect or unreported information in eligibility processes.⁵¹ A major culprit in the increase of this type of fraud, leading to higher and inappropriate Medicaid caseloads in Alaska and in other states, is a recent regulation created by the Obama administration that restricted states from redetermining Medicaid eligibility more often than once every 12 months.⁵² Waiting an entire year to review the status of an individual, while relying on the honor system to receive reported changes, leaves the program wide open to fraud. That is why audits in California, Kentucky, Illinois, and other states have all found tens and hundreds of thousands of ineligible individuals enrolled in their Medicaid programs.⁵³

This Obama-era rule has no basis in statute and categorically weakens Alaska's ability to be thorough in their program integrity efforts. However, this rule is primed for a waiver request approval from the Trump administration, which has repeatedly signaled its desire to change this rule and generally promote further program integrity. Arizona has already requested similar authority.



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Next steps: DHSS should request authority from CMS to complete Medicaid redeterminations more frequently, at least semi-annually. More frequent redeterminations are particularly important for the 61,000 able-bodied adults on the program, who are likely to have shifting income and household circumstances.

Recommendation 12: Disenroll and impose a lockout period for recipients in the Medicaid program for failure to report changes in a timely manner

Currently, Medicaid recipients who fail to report changes in their income or other household changes in a timely manner have limited or no penalties and likely will not even be disenrolled when the failure to report is discovered. Kentucky requested through an 1115 waiver permission to unenroll individuals who, “fail to report changes in circumstance in the required reporting period,” and then implement a lockout period of six months.⁵⁴ This change ensures that anyone who commits fraud by failing to report changes that could make them ineligible is off the program, at least for a period of time. This is particularly critical because redeterminations are allowed only once a year, as discussed in Recommendation 12.

Next steps: DHSS should develop an 1115 waiver that includes the authority for Alaska to unenroll and lockout Medicaid recipients, especially the able-bodied, who have failed to report changes in their income or household circumstances.



Recommendations Overview

1. Reinstate work requirements in SNAP for able-bodied adults with no dependents

Next steps: Reinstate the ABAWD work requirement by eliminating the current waiver request to suspend it statewide in Alaska.

2. Establish work/community engagement requirement for able-bodied adults 50-59 years old on SNAP with no dependents

Next steps: Alaska can simply include these 3,300 older ABAWDs in the “Mandatory E&T” population to begin requiring work or community engagement for this group. This can be done administratively through the SNAP E&T plan.

3. Establish work/community engagement requirement for able-bodied parents on SNAP who have only school-aged children in the household

Next steps: Alaska can begin to move these 6,100 able-bodied adults into mandatory E&T status by including them through the SNAP E&T plan administratively.

4. Lower the lifetime limit for TANF benefits from four years to three years

Next steps: Alaska will likely need legislative action to lower the lifetime TANF limit from 48 months to 36 months.

5. Include an intermittent time limit in the TANF program to prevent chronic dependency

Next steps: This time limit will likely need to be set through legislative authority, although the department could explore its flexibility to enact this administratively.

6. Adopt work/community engagement requirements for able-bodied adults on Medicaid

Next steps: To implement work requirements for many of the 60,000 able-bodied adults on Medicaid in Alaska, the state will need to develop and file a 1115 waiver request with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

7. Require full change reporting in SNAP to ensure all changes are reported in a timely manner

Next steps: Alaska should notify USDA and promulgate rules moving to change reporting, requiring all changes by SNAP recipient’s situation, including income or household changes, be reported within ten days.

8. Monitor and stop inappropriate out of state electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card use and remove non-residents

Next steps: Alaska can simply and effectively stop this fraud by monitoring EBT transactions that are occurring out of state. A simple report run monthly will generate a list of those SNAP or TANF recipients who have used their card exclusively outside of Alaska for 2 (or 3) months in a row. These individuals should be then sent a letter requesting they contact DCF within ten days to discuss concerns with their case related to their residency.



9. Require additional verification of Household Composition for Medicaid eligibility

Next steps: Alaska should begin checking data proactively to verify reported household composition. Data sets include vehicle registrations and other real property ownership, bank accounts, tax information, and marriage records. This is especially important for those reporting zero income.

10. Check income sources, vital records, and other data to verify Medicaid eligibility

Next steps: Alaska should begin checking basic, available data sources to make sure that those individuals signing up for Medicaid are actually eligible.

11. Redetermine the eligibility of Medicaid cases more than once annually

Next steps: Alaska should request authority from CMS to complete Medicaid redeterminations more frequently, at least semi-annually.

12. Disenroll and impose a lockout period for recipients in the Medicaid program for failure to report changes in a timely manner

Next steps: Alaska should develop an 1115 waiver that includes the authority for Alaska to unenroll and lockout Medicaid recipients, especially the able-bodied, who have failed to report changes in their income or household circumstances.

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