

CALS DHS 1

DJB/MEH

3/26/19(TuesPM/WedAM)

The state Department of Human Services is partnering with the Central Arkansas Library System in an effort to help recipients of the state's Medicaid expansion program report their hours of work to the state. Under a requirement approved last June, certain people receiving health insurance under the Arkansas Works program must report 80 hours of work per month. Speaking with reporters at the Capitol today (Tues), Gov. Asa Hutchinson said the partnership would make it easier to comply with the requirement.

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“...we can support them.”

Hutchinson said roughly 11-thousand people have found work as a result of the program. Non-compliance with the work requirement for three months in a year caused about 18-thousand people to lose health insurance coverage last year. A federal judge is expected to rule later this week whether Arkansas's work requirement for Medicaid beneficiaries should be allowed to continue

CALS DHS 2

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Arkansans who receive health insurance from state's Medicaid expansion program and must comply with a work requirement now have a new resource to get help reporting their hours of work. The Central Arkansas Library System is offering help with account setup and navigating the online reporting system at each of its 14 branches in Pulaski and Perry counties. CALS Executive Director Nate Coulter said one staffer at each branch has received training from the state Department of Human Services on how to navigate the system.

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“...submitted any information.”

The state's requirement that certain Arkansas Works recipients report 80 hours of work per month online or by phone has drawn controversy since its rollout last June, as about 18-thousand people lost coverage in 2018 for not complying for three months in a year. A federal judge is expected to rule whether to strike down the state's requirement later this week.