

# Up ... Not Off: Moving from Medicaid to Self-Sufficiency

---

STEVEN WAGNER, PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY,  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES (ACF)

CLARENCE CARTER, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FAMILY  
ASSISTANCE (OFA)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)



# Why “Up ... Not Off?”

---

ACF’s goal is to facilitate the achievement of self-sufficiency.

**94 million American adults are not in the labor force (37% of our civilian, non-institutionalized population aged 16+):**

- 44 million are retired
- 13 million are caring for family members

**This leaves 37 million genuinely idled:**

- 14 million of those claim a health impediment

These absent workers are not only an impediment to continued economic growth, they are consigning themselves to an early death.

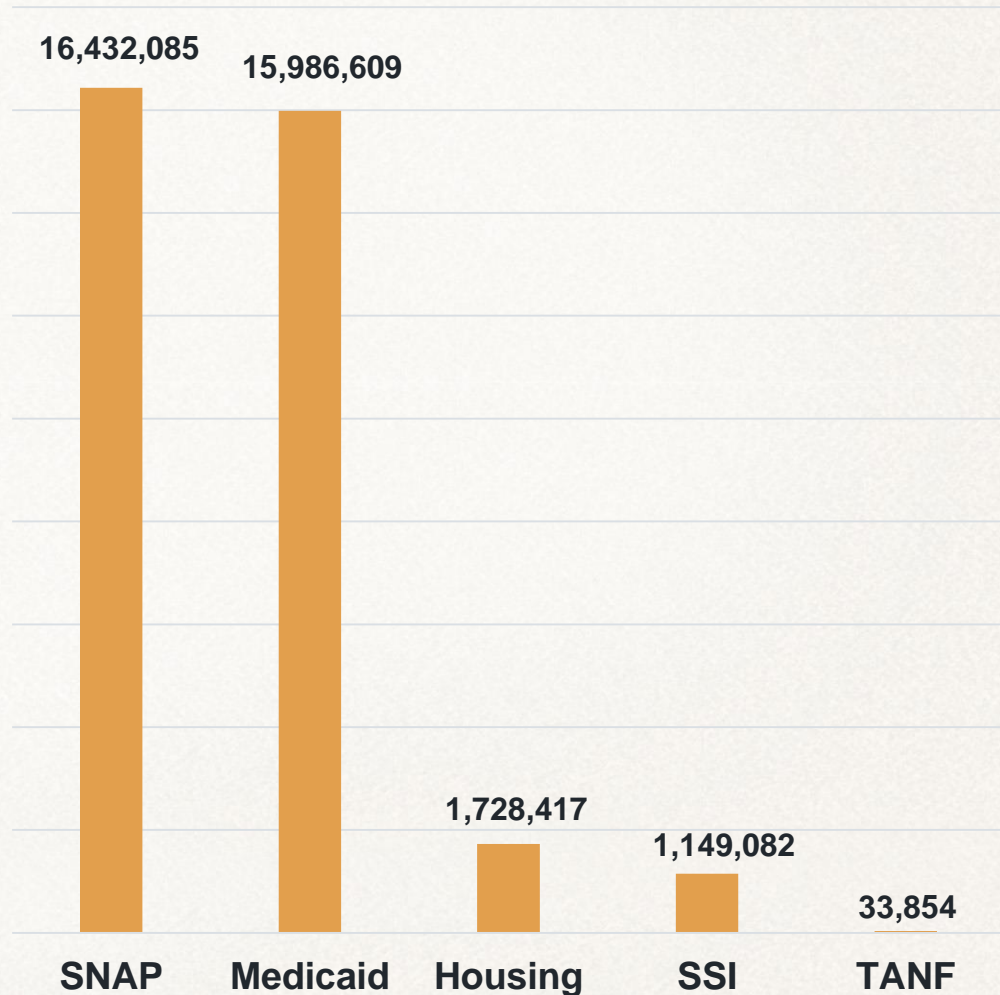
We have both an economic imperative and a moral imperative to draw these non-workers back into the economy, to reengage them as participating members of American society.



# Medicaid Uniquely Identifies 16M Beneficiaries of Work Promotion

- Adults (18+) receiving only one of these benefits = **35,330,047**
- Adults (18+) receiving 2-5 of these benefits = **19,110,901**

## Number of Unique Recipients in Each Program



# What Constitutes Effective Engagement?

---

- Differentiated assistance pathways based on individual needs
- Effective triage
- Intensive engagement for a brief time period (such as Life Coaching)
- Modest Investment/Pay-for-Performance



# Current Landscape of Section 1115 Community Engagement Demonstrations

---

## APPROVED Section 1115 Demonstrations

- Arkansas
- Indiana
- New Hampshire

## PENDING Section 1115 Demonstrations

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Kansas
- Maine
- Mississippi
- Ohio
- South Dakota
- Utah
- Wisconsin

# The Great Untapped Infrastructure of Engagement: Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

---

## States with MCO Coverage for 100% of Medicaid Population

- 3 of 51 states (TN, NE, HI)

## States with MCO Coverage for more than 75% of Medicaid Population

- 29 of 51 states (includes D.C.)

Source: As of July 1, 2017. Kaiser Family Foundation, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems>



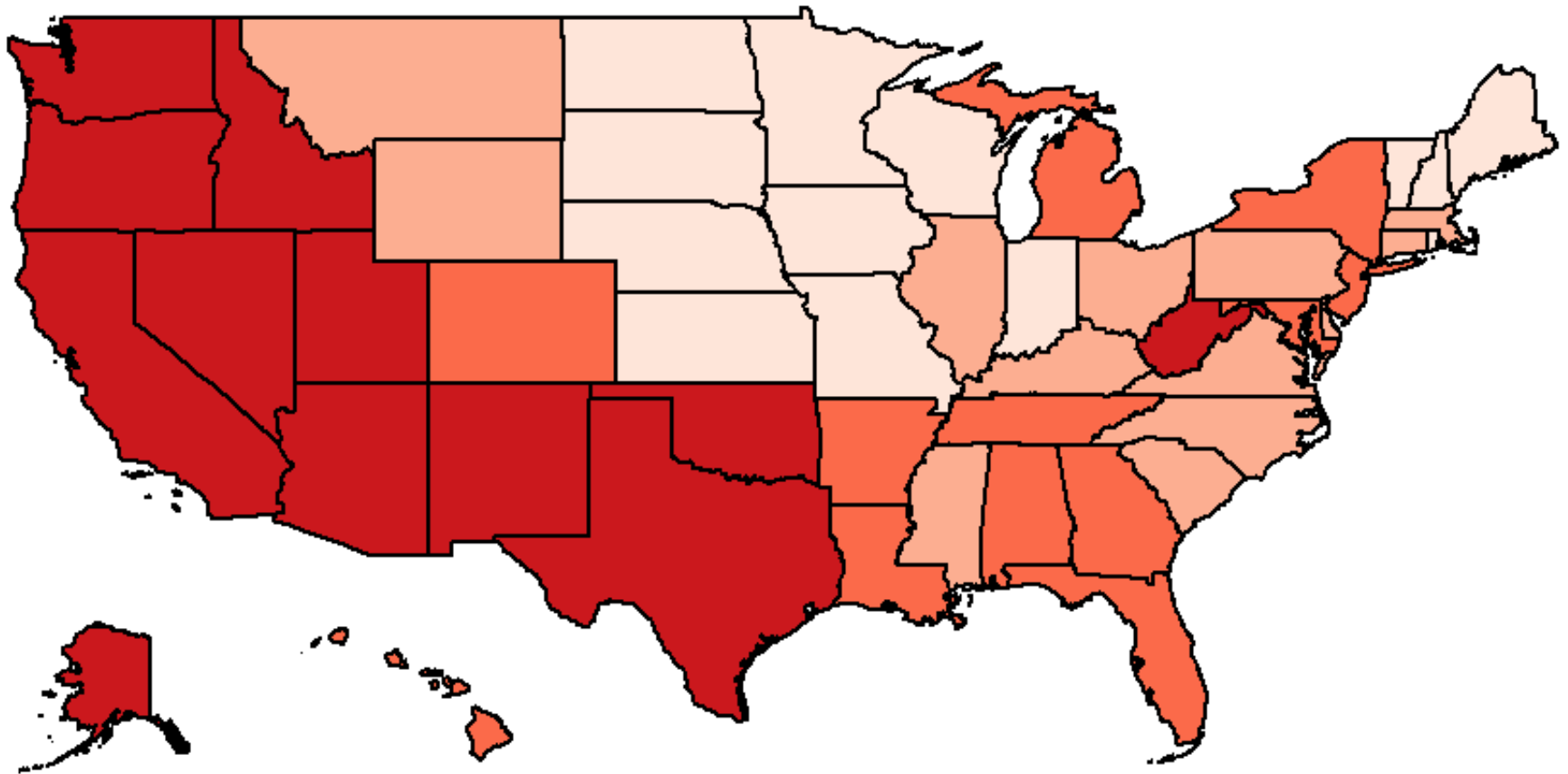
# What ACF has Learned in Conversations with MCOs

---

- State contracts often require nurses/PAs to serve as the case-manager; how does that work in the MCO world?
- Challenges of benefit cliffs
- Unavailability of federal funds for behavioral health services, social services, and employment services – a key barrier identified by MCOs
- More explicit guidance/TA for employment-focused case management and the kinds of practices that can help MCOs/Medicaid
- Data interoperability
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) barriers



# Percent of Population 18-59 Disengaged from Work, Average Annual: 2013-2015



Percent of Total Pop, Aged 18-59  7.4 to 9.5  9.6 to 10.6  10.7 to 11.5  11.6 to 13.5 NA





# How ACF Can Help - [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

---

- Convening Federal Partners
- Training and Technical Assistance
- TANF Unobligated Balances
- Research and Best Practices
- Federal Policy Review



# How ACF Can Help - [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

---

## Support on the Ground:

- *Example:* ACF leadership can visit states to (1) see and hear the challenges states are facing in implementation and (2) send the message that **HHS is not motivated by a desire to reduce Medicaid enrollment, but to help low-income Medicaid recipients improve their well-being through increased work.**

## Making Helpful Connections:

- *Example:* ACF can help facilitate Medicaid-TANF-DOL conversations at the regional level by hosting calls/webinars with the state Medicaid, TANF, and workforce offices.

## Sharing Research and Technical Assistance Materials:

- *Example:* ACF can provide studies of work engagement strategies and work requirements spanning decades, including:
  - Mathematica, [Strategies for Increasing TANF Work Participation Rates](#)
  - Mathematica, [Improving Engagement of TANF Families: Understanding Work Participation and Families with Reported Zero Hours of Participation in Program Activities](#)
  - MDRC, [Framing the Message: Using Behavioral Economics to Engage TANF Recipients](#)

