

The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas

Legislative Brief

The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas Act establishes a program of the same name. The Act sets the following eligibility requirements for the program:

1. Must be between 18 and 65 years of age.
2. Has an annual household income of no more than 133% of the federal poverty level, after the 5% income set aside allowed by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
3. Do not participate in Medicare or are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid.
4. Federal law requires Medicaid recipients must be US citizens or legal residents.

Premium Assistance Program

The Act also creates a premium assistance program for participants who have access to employer sponsored insurance. The assistance program must include a health care account as a component and the participant's payment to the account may not exceed 2% of the participant's annual income.

Referral to Employment, Work Search and Job Training Programs

The Act requires that all non-disabled adults who are unemployed or working less than 20 hours a week must be referred to the state's existing workforce training programs and job search resources. In addition, it requires that the application for the program provide screening for education and employment status, as well as an acknowledgement of the referral to the state programs. Full-time students are exempted from the referral for each year they are enrolled at a postsecondary education institutions or technical school. Parents may also be waived from the referral at the discretion of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Termination of Plan Upon Reduction of Federal Match

The Act provides for the termination of the program if the federal match for the program falls below 90% federal dollars as set forth in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Act also sets for the guidelines for the implementation of a phase out period between the time of notice of termination of the program and the final end of the program.

Severability of Terms

In the event that HHS rejects parts of the waiver, it does not invalidate the other portions of the Act, allowing each portion of the waiver to be considered as a separate item, with the exception of the termination upon reduction of the federal match.