



Goals of the HELP Act



Improve the health of low-income parents, adults, and workers in Georgia



Improve the long-term employability and economic success of Medicaid-eligible adults



Unlock all available federal funding to improve access to health care for Georgians

The Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act

Workforce Development + Health Care

Good idea comes to Georgia from Montana

Montana passed its version of the HELP Act in 2015. Between 2016-2019, 91,000 Montanans gained health coverage. Among those, 32,000 Montanans received workforce training and development services through the attached HELP-Link program.

HELP-Link provides flexible and customized career assistance to Medicaid-eligible adults. HELP-Link assists participants in five ways:

Employment services & career planning

Workforce & educational training

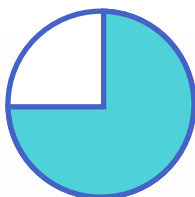
Work-based learning

Supportive services

Referrals to other service providers

Some of the most common careers pursued by participants who received funding for training were heavy tractor-trailer truck drivers, nursing assistants, registered nurses, personal care workers, and bookkeeping/accounting clerks. Many of the occupations offer wages high enough to lift the individual and their family above the Montana Medicaid eligibility threshold.

The results



72% were employed within a year after completing training.



About 83% of those who were employed reported a wage increase in the year after participation, with a median increase of \$8,700 annually.

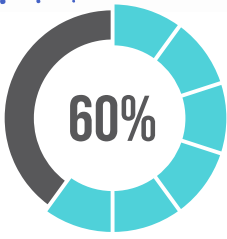
What would the HELP Act do for Georgians?

1

Makes uninsured adults with incomes below \$14,580 for an individual or \$30,000 for a family of 4 (<138% of the federal poverty line) eligible for Medicaid coverage

2

Creates a partnership between the Georgia Departments of Community Health and Labor to implement a voluntary workforce program for Medicaid-eligible adults



Between 2018 and 2019, nearly six-in-ten Montana businesses had at least one employee enrolled in Medicaid. The MT Department of Labor & Industry estimated that it would have cost employers between \$432 million and \$1.1 billion in 2019 to provide private insurance to Medicaid-enrolled workers.

Success story illustrates how Georgians could benefit

For years, Dairen Driskell moved from job to job in the construction field, suffering from inconsistent hiring and economic ups and downs. Dairen wanted steadier work in commercial driving.

Partnering with Great Falls College/MSU and working with HELP-Link case managers, Dairen completed CDL training and licensing. Using a collaboration of several national workforce services programs along with HELP-Link, Dairen received assistance for tuition, rent, work boots, utilities, a background check, DOT physical test, and food, gas, and hotel costs incurred when he had to travel out-of-town for his Hazardous Materials endorsement.

Dairen performed exceptionally well in his training and passed all the requirements of the program and final CDL exam. Within a week of getting his CDL, Dairen was offered and accepted employment working as a truck driver, achieving his career goals.

How is the Georgia HELP Act different from Georgia Pathways?

Georgia HELP Act	Georgia Pathways
<p>Georgia would spend only \$496 per enrollee in the first year of the program, earning a 90% match from the federal government. Georgia would also earn a “signing bonus” during the first two program years (a provision of the American Rescue Plan Act).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">● ● ●</p> <p>Around 400,000 Georgians would gain health coverage and access to workforce training and development programs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">● ● ●</p> <p>To address the wide range of employment barriers faced by Medicaid-eligible adults, Georgia HELP would stress the provision of local, flexible, and customized career assistance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">● ● ●</p> <p>Would provide consistent health coverage to ensure workers & potential workers can address any health issues that may be barriers to employment or school</p>	<p>Georgia will pay \$2490 per enrollee in the first year, earning only a 67% match from the federal government.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">● ● ●</p> <p>Less than 100,000 Georgians will gain health coverage. Zero Georgians will gain new access to workforce training and development.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">● ● ●</p> <p>Pathways requires Medicaid-eligible adults to submit monthly paperwork to prove their work or education hours. For those unable to meet the requirements, no assistance is provided.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">● ● ●</p> <p>Will be more difficult for Pathways members to stay consistently covered. When health issues prevent a member from working, they may lose their health insurance just when they need it to get back on their feet.</p>

References:
 Montana Department of Labor & Industry. HELP-Link Program: 2019 Fiscal Year End Report.
 Mannatt and Montana Healthcare Foundation. Medicaid in Montana. January 2021
 Georgia Budget & Policy Institute
 Georgians for a Healthy Future