

# Additional Positions to Implement Medicaid Expansion

July 10, 2023

Nannette M. Bowler and Antonia Pedroza



@wakegov



wakegov.com

# Agenda

- ✓ Common Definitions
- ✓ Background
- ✓ Projected Medicaid Workloads
- ✓ Preparation
- ✓ Medicaid Expansion Resource Needs

# Common Definitions

- Medicaid Beneficiaries (aka Recipients): Persons who have already been approved and are receiving health insurance coverage through the Federal Medicaid Program.
- Applicants: Persons applying for Medicaid.
- Reviews (aka Recertifications): Annual review of all current beneficiaries to ensure that they are still eligible to receive health insurance coverage through Medicaid.
- Workloads: The number of applications and reviews that must be completed in a certain time frame.
- Public Health Emergency (PHE) Ending: Also known as the Continuous Coverage Unwinding.

# Background: Medicaid Expansion

- During the PHE, the number of persons receiving Medicaid grew as the State offered the coverage to any resident not covered by any other health insurance.
- During the PHE, the State of NC auto-extended Medicaid eligibility for all beneficiaries (COVID-19 related or not). This dramatically increased our number of cases.
- On March 27, 2023, Governor Cooper signed HB76 – Access to Healthcare Options – into law. This is commonly known as Medicaid Expansion.
- The legislation will expand Medicaid which is expected to provide health coverage to over 600,000 people across North Carolina and bring billions in federal dollars to the state.

# Background: Medicaid Expansion

- Expansion will extend eligibility for Medicaid to adults (ages 19-64) with incomes of up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Medicaid Expansion will not go into effect until the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approves the rules associated with processing these applications and reviews.
- Recent projections range from 40,000 – 60,000 Wake County residents who will become eligible for Medicaid as a result of Medicaid Expansion.

# Medicaid: Projected Workload

## Applications

- Projections for the number of persons eligible for Medicaid coverage through Medicaid Expansion range from 40,000 – 60,000.
- Historically, 50% of Medicaid applications processed are approved. Processing times for approvals and denials are the same.
- A midway point of 50,000 newly eligible applicants results in a workload increase of 100,000 applications or more.
- Over a 2-year period, Medicaid Expansion would add approximately 4,167 applications per month to the current 4,300 – 7,800 applications processed per month.

# Medicaid: Projected Workload

## Annual Reviews

Two-Year Growth Projection includes these factors:

- Number of residents enrolled in Medicaid (164,094) at the end of FY20 (Pre-COVID-19).
- Added what would have been average growth (5%) for FY21, FY22, and FY23.
- Added 50,000 newly eligible residents.
- $164,094 * (5\% \text{ average growth per year for 3 years}) + 50,000 = 239,960$

# HHS Preparation

- Performing weekly check-in meetings with ESS Leadership and Management to monitor and revise plans as needed.
- Completed Process Mapping and identified actions designed to increase efficiencies.
  - Developed Action Plan based on Process Mapping.
- Training for all new staff and retraining staff members hired during the PHE.
- Redesigning training curriculum (Post-PHE)



# HHS Preparation

- Participating as a pilot program for the State's STP project.
- Meeting regularly with County Manager's Office to discuss impacts of PHE Ending and Medicaid Expansion beginning.
- Working with County HR, BMS, and Capital Area Workforce Development (CAWD) to brainstorm and implement creative approaches to assessing, recruiting and retaining staff in this competitive environment. Meeting with internal HHS staff and County Communications to develop a media plan regarding Medicaid Expansion (TBD).

# Medicaid Expansion Resource Needs

## Requesting a total of 74 positions:

- 60 Medicaid Eligibility Case Workers
- 6 Medicaid Supervisors
- 8 Support Staff
  - ✓ Trainers
  - ✓ Quality Assurance
  - ✓ Budget

Expenditure:	\$5,128,981
State/Federal Revenue:	\$3,817,428
County Share:	\$1,311,553
Ongoing State/Federal Revenue:	50% - 75%