

Medicaid Expansion Monthly Updates

Month: February 2024

Report Date: 3/15/2024

Recruitment Efforts:

- As of 3/15/24 Economic Services currently has 1 vacant IMC II positions to be filled in Adult Medicaid and 1 IMC I position.

Onboarding/New Hires:

- Economic Services currently has 23 IMC's in training with less than 12 month's experience. We are still utilizing experienced staff to help train.
- Medicaid Expansion Program functionality was programmed into NC Fast 10/28/23.
- Medicaid Expansion policy was effective 12/1/23.
- The influx of applications appears to be leveling. Rutherford shifted six caseworkers to manage the current pending applications. Rutherford was able to reallocate staff to manage the influx of applications because the state extending Medicaid for Children's (MIC) cases, therefore eliminating the need to complete a redetermination on targeted groups. The state is anticipating the extension of these cases to cease in December of this year. Rutherford's next challenge is to assess and stabilize our application department to be able to maintain the application workload while anticipation of moving staff back to reviews toward the end of December. The state has asked the counties to focus on preventing any overdue applications. Rutherford has focused on educating all application staff on utilizing all tools and resources available to prevent any applications exceeding deadlines. We've made great strides especially with all the new staff and Supervisors learning new policies and procedures. I'm pleased to report Rutherford continues to meet the standards of the State Report Card each month which requires a county of our size to have 90% of applications approved timely. I can confidently say, we would not have been able to do this without additional staff.
- The state continues to mention another waiver to extend cases below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level including Adult Medicaid cases for 12 months. The state recognizes the capacity issues within the counties and the expected impact of the Medicaid Expansion Program and is advocating for waivers and more automation to assist the counties. The state reported this month the counties will hopefully see some relief from this waiver in May due to NC Fast system changes.
- Rutherford County continues to receive a steady number of applications from the Federal Marketplace, In-Person, ePass and Walk In's. **AS of 3/4/24 compared to 3/6/23, we have had an increase of 304% pending applications in our MAGI program which houses Medicaid Expansion. All applications pending in Medicaid is an increase of 97%. Which includes MAGI and Non-MAGI.**

Program Growth:

- The state's projection of individuals anticipated to be eligible for Medicaid Expansion in Rutherford County is over 4,000.
- **As of 3/1/2024 Rutherford has 2,927 MXP recipients.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dee Hunt, Director