

Analysis of Potential Implementation Strategies for Virginia's Medicaid Expansion under the Section 1115 Waiver of the Social Security Act

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APP Client: Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

Motivation:

In May 2018, the Virginia State Legislature voted to expand Medicaid eligibility to individuals with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), currently up to \$16,643 for an individual.¹ This represents a large expansion for the Virginia Medicaid system. After the passage of the expansion bill, the state Medicaid office submitted an application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Section 1115 of the Social Security act to introduce conditions on program recipients. Typically, this represents work requirements.²

Project Description:

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services will be required to conduct an evaluation of the work requirements or other conditions imposed under the Section 1115 waiver with Medicaid expansion. The APP will focus on examining alternatives for different types of conditions that could be administered to program recipients including work requirements, premiums, or a combination thereof. It will also consider different types of evaluation strategies, as required under the waiver. This includes different research designs (i.e. randomized controlled trials vs. regression discontinuity vs. phase-in approach) and their tradeoffs as an evaluation mechanism. Ultimately, the finished APP will hopefully provide DMAS with evidence to inform an official evaluation of Virginia's Section 1115 Waiver.

Supplements:

I will conduct an analysis of time use patterns among the expansion population and power calculations for a potential RCT, to provide evidence for the feasibility of conducting a proper Section 1115 evaluation if such a research design is chosen.

¹ Vozella, L., & Schneider, G. (2018, May 30). Virginia General Assembly approves Medicaid expansion to 400,000 low-income residents. Washington Post. Retrieved from https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/virginia-senate-approves-medicaid-expansion-to-400000-low-income-residents/2018/05/30/5df5e304-640d-11e8-a768-ed043e33f1dc_story.html

² Martz, M. (2018, July 8). State moves forward to expand Medicaid, prepare waiver in shadow of ruling on Kentucky work rule. Richmond Times-Dispatch. Retrieved from https://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/state-moves-forward-to-expand-medicaid-prepare-waiver-in-shadow/article_7db93c64-2b40-53a5-9b5c-d4c204429815.html