

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. B. No. 930

Representative Williams

To enact section 5166.38 of the Revised Code to 1
establish an orientation program for individuals 2
newly enrolled in the Medicaid program and to 3
designate this act the Medicaid Bridge to 4
Independence Act. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 5166.38 of the Revised Code be 6
enacted to read as follows: 7

Sec. 5166.38. (A) The medicaid director shall establish a 8
medicaid waiver component in accordance with this section under 9
which medicaid recipients must complete an orientation program 10
after enrolling in the medicaid program. 11

(B) Under the waiver component, the department of medicaid 12
shall establish an orientation program that all individuals must 13
complete upon initial enrollment in the medicaid program as a 14
condition of continued participation in the program. In its 15
waiver application, the department shall make provision for 16
individuals who are enrolled in the medicaid program on the 17
effective date of this section to complete the orientation 18
program. 19

The orientation program shall be designed to inform and 20

empower medicaid recipients and, at a minimum, include all of 21
the following topics: 22

(1) Financial literacy and management, budgeting 23
fundamentals, banking access and savings strategies, 24
understanding debt and financial planning, credit education 25
including explanations of credit scores and reports and how to 26
build and repair credit, and avoidance of predatory lending 27
practices; 28

(2) Workforce development and employment resources, an 29
overview of state and local job training programs, 30
apprenticeships and career pathways, and coordination with 31
workforce agencies and employers; 32

(3) Available behavioral and mental health services, 33
mental health counseling services, substance use disorder 34
treatment programs, crisis intervention and stabilization 35
services, emergency and crisis resources, information on 36
behavioral health emergency response systems, suicide prevention 37
resources, and community-based crisis hotlines and response 38
units; 39

(4) Health system navigation, including how to access 40
primary care services, the importance of preventive care, and 41
appropriate use of emergency services. 42

(C) (1) The department may deliver the orientation program 43
through multiple platforms including in-person sessions, online 44
modules, hybrid formats, and partnerships with community-based 45
organizations. 46

(2) The department shall ensure that orientation program 47
materials are accessible for individuals with disabilities, are 48
available in multiple languages, and provide for reasonable 49

accommodations that ensure access for individuals with 50
transportation or childcare barriers. 51

(D) (1) The department shall establish flexible timelines 52
under which an individual may complete the orientation program. 53
No individual shall be denied immediate eligibility for the 54
medicaid program or access to medically necessary services while 55
they are completing the orientation program. 56

(2) At its discretion, the department may waive the 57
requirement that an individual complete the orientation program 58
if the department determines the individual's medical condition 59
or other factors do not facilitate completion of the program. 60

(E) The department shall collect data concerning all of 61
the following about individuals who complete the orientation 62
program established under this section: 63

(1) Participation rates; 64

(2) Employment outcomes; 65

(3) Utilization of behavioral health services; 66

(4) Reduction in emergency room utilization. 67

(F) The department shall prepare and submit a report to 68
the general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the 69
Revised Code concerning the orientation program. The report 70
shall include the data collected by the department under 71
division (E) of this section. Additionally, the report shall 72
examine the effectiveness of the orientation program, the cost 73
savings or cost neutrality of the orientation program, and any 74
recommendations for expanding or modifying the orientation 75
program. 76

(G) The medicaid director shall adopt rules in accordance 77

<u>with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to implement this section.</u>	78
<u>(H) (1) In enacting this section, the general assembly</u>	79
<u>makes the following findings:</u>	80
<u>(a) The Medicaid program provides critical health coverage</u>	81
<u>to vulnerable populations but does not consistently equip</u>	82
<u>recipients with the tools necessary to achieve long-term</u>	83
<u>economic independence.</u>	84
<u>(b) Many medicaid recipients are unaware of available</u>	85
<u>workforce development programs, financial literacy resources,</u>	86
<u>and behavioral health services.</u>	87
<u>(c) Early engagement and education at the point of</u>	88
<u>enrollment can improve health outcomes, reduce dependency, and</u>	89
<u>promote upward mobility.</u>	90
<u>(2) In enacting this section, it is the intent of the</u>	91
<u>general assembly to transition public assistance from a passive</u>	92
<u>benefit to an active pathway towards self-sufficiency.</u>	93
Section 2. This act shall be known as the Medicaid Bridge	94
to Independence Act.	95