

Noah
Cumberland County

Last year I was diagnosed with autism. I was hoping I'd be able to get assistance for things I struggle with in my adult life. Other than legal and job assistance, there's so much more I need help with.

But I have to build up the resolve to call MaineCare and take an afternoon off from work to do so. Most people work 9-5ish hours like me. It's very hard to call MaineCare during the day in 30 minutes during a break. It took 45 minutes on hold the other day just to get to talk to someone, and another hour to take care of applying. And that time is lost wages for me.

With most jobs being 40 hours minimum, to qualify for MaineCare I'd need to make \$10 an hour to make less than \$1670 a month to qualify for MaineCare. And even though they want you to give them all of your bills and expenses when you apply, that \$1670 only is the gross income. My phone, car, rent, food, insurances, etc. don't figure into it at all.

I have insurance, too. I pay \$588 a month to have my insurance and my copays are so ridiculous. I had to get an ultrasound and got another \$300 copay.

The livable wage for single earners in Maine is around \$22/hour for 40 hrs. Most jobs require full time. As a full time employee, I'd have to make under the minimum wage to receive MaineCare. It's \$10/hour for 40 hours to be able to get MaineCare. To keep my current pay and get MaineCare, I would need to go down to 19 hours a week.