



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Innovative [UCare](#), [GEDWorks](#) program expands statewide  
*Up to 1,265 UCare Medicaid members offered  
no-cost GED prep and tests***

MINNEAPOLIS, May 13, 2021 — UCare and GEDWorks are partnering to provide UCare members a second chance to earn their GED® (General Educational Development) credentials. The partnership addresses education as a significant social factor driving health and health outcomes. It complements UCare's robust support for every dimension of our members' health including food security, housing stability, and health and racial equity.

Since 2019, UCare and GEDWorks have piloted a trailblazing program in select Minnesota counties to waive the costs of GED preparation and testing for a limited number of UCare members enrolled in Families & Children Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare programs. To date, 28 members from diverse backgrounds have graduated and earned their GED credentials. Read one member's success story [here](#).

Now UCare and GEDWorks are expanding the program statewide – and throughout the metropolitan area - and adding an additional 1,000 opportunities for members. The program is also expanding to members of UCare's Special Needs Plans for adults with disabilities.

“For so many of our members, education has not been easily or equitably attainable,” observed Ghita Worcester, UCare's Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer. “We are excited to give our members a second chance to achieve their educational and career dreams and thereby lead healthier lives.”

In addition to waiving the cost of the GED tests, GEDWorks supports UCare members with:

- A dedicated advisor and coaching every step of the way
- Unlimited practice tests and study materials
- Official GED credential tests

- Access to bilingual (English and Spanish) advisors, tests and study materials
- Pilot use of a career path tool from Julius Education – includes assessments and short bite-size training courses on soft skills (like communication, problem-solving, organization, etc.) that help with resume building and job interviewing. Members also have access to a job board with relevant jobs in members' geographic areas.

The prep and tests are online and by phone, which makes the program accessible for members living in rural parts of the state and eliminates safety concerns during the pandemic.

UCare's support is driven by the fact that education levels and employment are intrinsically linked to good health. Eighty-two percent of Minnesota students earn a high school diploma within four years; this number is lower for students of color and low-income students. [According to the American Public Health Association](#), adults who do not complete high school have poorer health and are more likely to die prematurely from preventable conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and lung disease.

UCare and GEDWorks believe this investment in UCare members will have a significant impact on members' wellbeing, career success and long-term health. The program also sets the stage to benefit their children and generations to come.

### **About UCare**

[UCare](#) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 550,000 members throughout Minnesota and parts of western Wisconsin. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver Medicare, Medicaid and Individual & Family health plans. All of its plans are National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) certified.

The health plan addresses health care disparities and care access issues through a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for 11 consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

### **About GEDWorks and GED Testing Service**

[GEDWorks](#) is the official turnkey education benefit from the creators of the GED®. The benefit gives members, employees, and their family members the tools and guidance they need to earn their GED diploma.

The [GED](#) test has opened doors to better jobs and college programs for more than 20 million graduates since 1942. The GED test is accepted by virtually all U.S. colleges and employers. As the creator of the one official GED test, GED Testing Service has a responsibility to ensure that the program continues to be a reliable and valuable pathway to a better life for the millions of adults

without a high school diploma. GED Testing Service is a joint venture between the American Council on Education and Pearson.

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