



# MEDICAID and D.C. HEALTHY FAMILIES KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

## ***What Is Medicaid/DC Healthy Families?***

- Medicaid is health insurance for people who live in D.C and have low income.
- Medicaid will pay for many medical services. It will pay for doctor or hospital visits, home health care, prescription drugs, and many other services.

## ***Who Can Get Medicaid/DC Healthy Families?***

- **You must have low income.** The income rules are different based on your situation. Childless adults and families with children can have income up to 200% of the federal poverty level (\$2,428.33 per month for a family of 2). Pregnant women and children under age 19 (but not their parents), may also qualify for Medicaid if the household income is below 300% of the federal poverty level (\$3,678.00 for a family of 2).
- **If you have Medicare,** you can only make up to 100% of the poverty level (\$1,214.17 per month for a family of 2) to qualify for Medicaid. If you get Medicare, then you must also be either over age 65 **or** blind or medically disabled to get Medicaid.
- Other eligibility groups include immigrant children, certain refugees and women with breast or cervical cancer. The rules are different for each group.
- Some people must **have limited resources.** Like the income rules, the resource rules vary. **There are no resource limits for families with kids.**
- **You have to be a U.S. Citizen or a certain category of immigrant (see below).**
- If you get SSI or TANF, you automatically qualify for Medicaid.

## ***I'm Not a U.S. Citizen. Can I Get Medicaid/DC Healthy Families?***

- Maybe. If you are not a citizen, follow these steps to find out if you can get Medicaid.

**STEP #1: Are you a lawfully-residing child or pregnant woman?** If you are a lawfully-residing child, you can get Medicaid until you turn 22 years old. After that, you can continue to get Medicaid *only* if you meet the rules in steps 2 – 4 below. If you are a lawfully-residing pregnant woman, you can get Medicaid during your pregnancy and for the 60 days following delivery. After that, you can continue to get Medicaid *only* if you meet the rules in steps 2 – 4 below.

**STEP#2: Are you a "qualified immigrant"?** A "qualified immigrant" is a lawful permanent resident, refugee, asylee, person whose deportation or removal has been withheld, Haitian/Cuban entrant, person paroled for 1 year, conditional entrant, and some battered spouses and children.

**STEP #3: If you are a "qualified immigrant," then you can get Medicaid if you fall into one of these categories:**

- ✓ Entered the U.S. before August 22, 1996
- ✓ Person receiving SSI on or before Aug. 22, 1996
- ✓ Have lived in the U.S. as a qualified immigrant for 5 years
- ✓ Veteran/active duty in the U.S. military or the spouse or child of such member
- ✓ Refugee, asylee or person whose deportation or removal was withheld
- ✓ Cuban/Haitian entrant or Amerasian immigrant

**STEP#4: If you are not a "qualified immigrant," you must be one of these to get Medicaid:**

- ✓ Certain category of Native Americans born abroad
- ✓ Victim of trafficking
- ✓ Were receiving SSI on Aug. 22, 1996

- If you cannot get Medicaid because of your immigration status, you can apply for a family member who can. **A worker may ask for your income, but cannot ask for your immigration status** or social security number if you are not applying for yourself.
- If you do not qualify because of your immigration status or because you are undocumented, your application will be considered for the **D.C. Healthcare Alliance**. Call **(202) 639-4030** to apply.
- D.C. Healthy Families has a **special Medicaid program for immigrant children** who do not qualify for Medicaid or other insurance because of immigration status. Call **(202) 639-4030** for information. You can apply using the D.C. Healthy Families application.

### ***Where Do I Apply for Medicaid/DC Healthy Families?***

- You can pick up an application at a hospital, Giant, Safeway, CVS, Rite Aid, health clinic, pharmacy, Department of Motor Vehicles, or a library. You can also have the application mailed to you or apply at a **DHS service center**. To find out which DHS center services your address, call (202) 698-3900.

Anacostia Service Center	2100 MLK Jr. Ave. SE	(202) 645-4614
Congress Heights Center	4001 South Capitol St. SW	(202) 645-4546
Fort Davis Service Center	3851 Alabama Ave. SE	(202) 645-4500
H Street Service Center	645 H Street NE	(202) 698-4350
Taylor Street Service Center	1207 Taylor Street NW	(202) 576-8000

### ***How Do I Apply for Medicaid/DC Healthy Families?***

- You can pick up an application at a DHS center or any place listed above. You can also have it mailed.
- You have the **right to an application on the day you walk into the center**. The center must accept it that day as long as it has your name, address, and signature.
- You can **mail your application**. You do not need an interview if applying for D.C. Healthy Families, but you might need to bring in some papers.
- **DHS will ask for documents**, like a photo ID, proof of address (a utility bill), birth certificates, social security card, and proof of income (pay stubs).
- Make sure to check the box on the application for "retroactive coverage" if you have medical bills from before the date you applied. You can get your medical bills paid for up to 3 months before you applied.
- If you need help filling out the application, call **(202) 639-4030**.
- DHS can take up to **45 days to decide your Medicaid application**. If you are applying for Medicaid based on your disability, then DHS can take up to 90 days to decide.

### ***I Do Not Speak English Well. Can I Still Apply?***

- **Yes**. The DHS center must make sure that someone who speaks your language can help you fill out forms and answer questions in person or over the phone. (Note that the application is available in Spanish). You should also ask any agency to note your language preference in their records so that you can receive notices and language services in that language.

### ***What If I Am Denied Or Cut Off From Medicaid?***

- Request a **"fair hearing."** A fair hearing is a chance for you to explain to a judge why you believe the decision is wrong. You **must request a hearing within 90 days of getting a notice** that your Medicaid application or recertification was denied or that your Medicaid was cut off. If you request a hearing within **15 days of the notice of termination**, you may be able to keep getting Medicaid while waiting for the fair hearing to be held.

### ***NEED HELP? Call the Legal Aid Society of D.C. or come to one of our office locations:***

**Address:** 1331 H Street, N.W., Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20005      **Phone:** (202) 628-1161  
**Walk-in Hours:** Mondays from 12:30pm – 6:00pm and Thursdays from 12:30pm – 4:00pm  
**Directions:** Blue/Orange Line to McPherson Square or Red Line to Metro Center (13<sup>th</sup> Street)

**Advocates for Justice and Education** in the Anacostia Professional Building (the "Big Chair")  
**Address:** 2041 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., S.E., Suite 400      **Phone:** (202) 628-1161  
**Walk-in Hours:** Mondays and Thursdays 12:30pm – 4:00pm  
**Directions:** Green Line to Anacostia (updated April 2011)