

DC Medicaid

What is Medicaid?

Medicaid covers a broad range of healthcare services for low-income children and families. Medicaid is available to those who don't have any medical insurance or don't have enough medical insurance and are:

- Pregnant
- A parent or relative caretaker of a dependent child under age 19
- Blind
- Disabled
- Living with a family member with a disability
- 65 years old or older

How does it work?

The DC Medicaid program pays the medical bills of qualifying residents with lower-income. There are no premiums and there is no co-pay. Medicaid does not pay money to you; it sends payments directly to your healthcare providers. There may, however, be a deductible for some participants; some with higher incomes may need to pay bills by themselves before Medicaid begins to pay bills for them. If you are a senior citizen, DC Medicaid may also pay your Medicare Part B monthly premiums.

3 programs exist for those who cannot receive regular Medicaid:

Medicaid Spend-Down

If your income is over the Medicaid limit, you may still be eligible for Medicaid "Spend-Down." The Spend-Down program is similar to regular Medicaid, but Medicaid pays medical bills only after you have paid for some of your own health care costs (the deductible). The deductible is based on family income, so everyone has a different deductible. Spend-Down deductibles are commonly \$300 per month or more, so the program is most useful to people with high or repeated medical costs. Towards your deductible you can count most medical bills and costs, including those for medicine, home healthcare, taxis to and from the doctor, and even adult diapers. You can also count any past, unpaid medical bill (including the parts of bills that Medicaid normally does not pay) towards your deductible. You must have bills or receipts to show how much you have spent on your bills.

DC Healthy Families Insurance (SCHIP)

DC Healthy Families is a Medicaid program for the children of parents whose incomes are too high for Medicaid, but still too low to pay for their children's health insurance.

Those who may be eligible include:

- Children
- Those under the age of 19 who live alone
- Parents and child guardians
- Pregnant women

See the separate *Healthy Families Insurance* entry below for more information.

DC HealthCare Alliance

The DC HealthCare Alliance program provides wide-ranging medical assistance to those who are not eligible for Medicaid, including:

- Non-disabled childless adults
- Non-qualified aliens
- Some individuals who are over-income for Medicaid

Immigration Status

To receive Medicaid you must be a US citizen, permanent resident or legal alien.

How does one apply?

- Complete and submit a DC Combined Application for Benefits form. (This form can be used to apply for Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, Interim Disability Assistance and TANF/General Assistance for Children.)
 - Visit a local DHS Income Maintenance Administration Service Center.
 - Call a local DHS Income Maintenance Administration Service Center and ask that an application be mailed to you.
 - Print out the [Combined Application for Benefits](#) found on the DC Department of Health Services website. ([Combined Application for Benefits](#), Spanish)
 - Pick up an application at a number of sites, such as supermarkets, around the city.

When you apply, you will need:

- Proof of income (for example, pay stubs or a letter from your employer)
- Proof that you live in DC (for example, a utility or telephone bill, a lease, rent receipts, or a DC driver's license)
- Proof of your family members' Social Security numbers (for example, a Social Security card or other documents with Social Security numbers on them)

Contact Information

1. DC Healthy Families Help Line
Phone: (202) 639-4030

The Help Line staff can answer questions and help you with applications. The help line has bilingual (English/Spanish) staff and a TDD/TTY telephone line for the hearing-impaired.

2. [DC Department of Human Services](#)
64 New York Avenue, NE
6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 671-4200
Fax: (202) 671-4325

3. Medicaid Spend-Down Unit
202-698-4202

4. DC Department of Human Services
Income Maintenance Administration Service Center

Customers should call the IMA at (202) 724-5506 to learn which Service Centers serve their addresses and for other customer service matters.

Anacostia Service Center
2100 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020

Fort Davis Service Center
3851 Alabama Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020

Congress Heights Service Center
4001 South Capitol Street, SW
Washington, DC 20032

H Street Service Center
645 H Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Taylor Street Service Center
1207 Taylor Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011