Medicaid in the District of Columbia

A Brief Overview

What is Medicaid?

- Medicaid provides health coverage to millions of Americans, including eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, seniors and individuals with disabilities. Under the Affordable Care Act, low-income adults without children are now also eligible.

Who is Eligible for DC Medicaid?

- Medicaid benefits are available to District residents who meet the income guidelines[1]:
  - Children (age 0-18) – income 319% FPL
  - Youth (age 19-20) – income 216% FPL
  - Pregnant Women – income 319% FPL
  - Elderly (over 65), Blind, or Disabled – income 100% FPL
  - Adults (age 21-64) – income 210% FPL
- You must be able to prove:
  - You are a resident of the District of Columbia;
  - You are a U.S. citizen or an eligible immigrant; and
  - Income

2015 Federal Poverty Levels (FPL) by Family Size[2]

	Percent (%) Annual Income		
Family Size*	100% FPL	200% FPL	300% FPL
1	$11,770	$23,540	$35,310
2	$15,930	$31,860	$47,790
3	$20,090	$40,180	$60,270
4	$24,250	$48,500	$72,750
5	$28,410	$56,820	$85,230
6	$32,570	$65,140	$97,710
7	$36,730	$73,460	$110,190
8	$40,890	$81,780	$122,670

*Pregnant women count as two people. For family units of more than 8 members, add $4,160 for each additional member.

How Many People Are on DC Medicaid?

- Approximately 240,000 individuals are enrolled in the District's Medicaid program,[3] including over 90,000 children.[4]

What Does Medicaid Cover?

- Medicaid covers many services, including: doctor visits; hospital care; prescription drugs; mental health services; dental and vision services; transportation; and many other services at little or no cost to the individual.
- In addition to all listed services, all children and youth under age 21 enrolled in Medicaid are entitle to the comprehensive set of health care services known as Early, Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT).[5]
- Many services that young children (0-3) receive through Early Intervention are also paid for by Medicaid.[6] Services include screenings and assessments, and physical, speech, and occupational therapy.

How is Medicaid Structured?

- Most members select a managed care organization (MCO) through which to receive their benefits. The District of Columbia contracts with four plans to provide managed health care services. The plans include: Amerihealth; MedStar Family Choice; Health Services for Children with Special Needs; and Trusted Health Plan.[7]
- Some Medicaid enrollees (children in foster care, elderly, and disabled individuals) are served through a fee-for-service delivery system where health care providers are paid for each service (like an office visit, test or procedure) rather than going through a MCO.

How is DC Medicaid Funded?

- Medicaid is jointly funded by the federal government and the District of Columbia. The federal government pays 70% of each dollar the District spends on Medicaid.[8] Medicaid is the single largest source of federal funding to the District of Columbia.

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[1] District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance, Medicaid State Plan, ACA Eligibility State Plan Amendments.
[2] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2015 Poverty Guidelines, (September 2015).
[3] Medicaid.gov, 2014 Quarterly Medicaid MBES Enrollment Reports (August 2015).
[4] Medicaid.gov, 2014 Number of Children Ever Enrolled Report (May 2015).
[5] EPSDT provides a comprehensive array of prevention, diagnostic, and treatment services for low-income infants, children, and adolescents under age 21, as specified in Section 1905(r) of the Social Security Act.
[6] District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance Medicaid Regulations, Medicaid Reimbursement for Early Intervention Services Final Rulemaking (August 2014).
[7] Medicaid.gov, District of Columbia's Medicaid Managed Care Profile (August 2014).
[8] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, FY2016 Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (March 2015).