

## Medical Assistance (also referred to as MA and Medicaid) related resources and information.

Why is this information important to those registered or seeking registration with Allegheny County Department of Human Services Office of Developmental Supports (ODS)?

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are supportive services that make it possible for individuals with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians to live in their homes and communities. HCBS through PA Department of Human Services Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) waivers and Supports Coordination received by individuals registered with ODS are provided through Medical Assistance (also called MA and Medicaid). ODP waivers administered by ODS are the Consolidated, Community Living (CLW) and Person Family Direct Support (PFD or PFDS).

MA eligibility is determined by the County Assistance Office (CAO).

Replying to mailings from the CAO and renewing your MA eligibility on time is very important.

**Medicaid Eligibility** PA Health Law Project offers an article that begins with "Pennsylvania's Medicaid program, also known as "Medical Assistance", provides comprehensive health care coverage for vulnerable populations and people with limited incomes. Historically, Medicaid was only available to narrow groups, such as low-income children and adults with disabilities. But in 2015, Pennsylvania adopted Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Now, children and adults can qualify for coverage based solely on having limited income. Medicaid's broad coverage ensures access to care so people of all ages and abilities can live healthy and full lives.

People must apply for Medicaid coverage and renew their benefits each year. Even though there are a number of ways to qualify for Medicaid coverage, people do not have to apply for a specific category or program." [www.phlp.org/en/issues/medicaid-eligibility](http://www.phlp.org/en/issues/medicaid-eligibility)

**2024 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines Announced** article and **2024 Income and Resource Limits for Medicaid and Other Health Programs** document [www.phlp.org/en/news/2024-federal-poverty-income-guidelines-announced](http://www.phlp.org/en/news/2024-federal-poverty-income-guidelines-announced)

**Applying for Medicaid for a Child with a Disability: PH-95 Category** "You can apply for Medicaid in many ways in Pennsylvania. The PH-95 Category is one way. The PH-95 Category is for children (under 18 years old) with disabilities, like autism. Family

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income does not affect PH-95 eligibility. Even if you make too much money, your child can still get Medicaid in the PH-95 category. Find helpful resources, including a one-page document titled Applying for Medicaid for a Child, at <https://paautism.org/resource/medicaid-health-insurance-ph95/>

Each individual's coordination needs and challenges are unique, and they deserve the individualized attention necessary in order for those needs to be met. This is the role of our **Special Needs Units**. This resource provides information on the various managed care organizations and how members can successfully navigate them to receive timely and effective services.

<https://paautism.org/resource/special-needs-managed-care-services/>

**The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)** "...benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, and developmental, and specialty services."

[www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/index.html](http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/index.html)

**Medical Assistance information from the PA Department of Human Services** at [www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Medical-Assistance.aspx](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Medical-Assistance.aspx) includes:

- How to apply
- Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) <http://matp.pa.gov/>
- Medical Assistance Benefits for Workers with Disabilities  
[www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/MA-for-Disabled-Workers.aspx](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/MA-for-Disabled-Workers.aspx)

Physical Health Managed Care Organizations (PH plans) are available for Medical Assistance (MA) consumers. Learn more at

[www.dhs.pa.gov/HealthChoices/Pages/Plan-Selection-Toolkit.aspx](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/HealthChoices/Pages/Plan-Selection-Toolkit.aspx)

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**Medical Assistance Recipients Can Receive Text Alerts from PA Department of Human Services (PA DHS)** “Pennsylvanians who receive Medical Assistance (also known as MA or Medicaid) (and/or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, sometimes referred to as food stamps or cash benefits) can sign up to receive important alerts about these benefits from PA DHS.” Learn more from PA Health Law Project at [www.phlp.org/en/news/medicaid-recipients-encouraged-to-sign-up-for-text-alerts-from-dhs](http://www.phlp.org/en/news/medicaid-recipients-encouraged-to-sign-up-for-text-alerts-from-dhs)