



The Basics of Medicaid

What is Medicaid?

- > Medicaid is a federal and state partnership program that provides health care to certain groups of people who meet the eligibility requirements. Eligibility is based on the federal poverty level (FPL) and family size.
- > The federal government reimburses the state for a majority percentage of the cost of the services provided.

Who can get Medicaid?

- > Right now, Medicaid is available to only certain categories of people who meet the income requirements: children, pregnant women, aged, blind and disabled persons, and some very low-income parents. For example, using a household size of three, a pregnant woman must make under \$35,317, a blind or disabled person must make less than \$19,090, and children must have a family income of less than \$38,180.
- > Parents of Medicaid-eligible children must make less than \$10,881. There are also limitations on the amount of assets that an individual or family can have and still be eligible.
- > Finally, only those who are citizens or are lawfully present of the United States are eligible for Medicaid.

How is Medicaid funded?

- > The state and the federal government share the cost for Medicaid.

- > In Nebraska, the federal government pays 55.76% of the costs, and Nebraska pays for the rest.
- > Some children are covered by the Children's Health Insurance Program and the federal reimbursement for that program is 70%.

What does Medicaid cover?

- > By law, Medicaid must cover certain services and may cover others.
- > Some of what Nebraska currently covers includes doctor visits, prescription drugs, limited vision and dental care, pregnancy-related services, and behavioral health care.
- > In general, more services are available for children than adults.

What opportunities exist under Medicaid?

- > Nebraska currently has a great opportunity to opt into the new Medicaid program, which would allow coverage for Nebraskans earning under 138% FPL.
- > This means that working parents and adults, whether or not they have dependent children, could access health care coverage. And the federal government will pay 100% of the costs for those who are "newly eligible" under the new Medicaid program.
- > The new Medicaid program is good deal for our state, will grow the economy and create jobs, and it's the right thing to do.

