

Can I Qualify for Medicaid?

An Eligibility Guide for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled Receiving SSI or Former SSI Recipients



What is Medicaid?

- Medicaid is a national health care program. It helps pay for medical services for low-income people.
- For those eligible for full Medicaid services, Medicaid is not paid to you. Medicaid is only paid to providers of health care. Providers are doctors, hospitals, pharmacists and other medical professionals who take Medicaid.
- Be sure the provider you see takes Medicaid *before* you get any service.
- **If the provider does not take Medicaid, you must pay the bill.**
- For your information, a list of providers in your area who take Medicaid is available from your regional Medicaid Office. (See back of this publication.)

Who is Eligible?

You may qualify for SSI (Supplemental Security Income)/Medicaid, or you may be able to remain eligible for Medicaid after your SSI payments stop if you meet certain eligibility guidelines. These guidelines include persons who are:

- **Blind**– People with vision less than 20/200, or people who have a limited visual field of 20 degrees or less while wearing eyeglasses.
- **Aged**– Persons who are 65 and older.
- **Disabled**– People who are unable to work due to a serious physical or mental condition that has lasted, or is expected to last, 12 months or longer.
- **SSI Eligibles**– Persons who are eligible to receive SSI are **automatically eligible** to receive Medicaid. (Social Security eligibility is determined by the Social Security Administration.)
- **Cost of living (COL) Recipients**– People who are currently receiving Social Security (Title II) benefits, who have lost their SSI eligibility due to a Social Security “cost of living” increase(s) which raised them over the SSI income limit.
- **Disabled Adult Children**– Includes disabled individuals over age 18 who have lost their SSI benefits after July 1, 1987 because they either began to receive Social Security benefits, or because of an increase in their Social Security benefits.

Widow(er)s Age 50 to 65– Includes recipients of Social Security Widow(er) Insurance benefits who **do not receive Medicare**. These widow(er)s must have received SSI but then lost these SSI benefits because he or she began receiving Social Security.

Income and Resources

- **Income limit**– The maximum amount of money a person or couple may receive and still qualify for Medicaid.
This income limit is based on the size of the household, and the type of income received (earned or unearned). The income limit, which is based on federal guidelines, may change each year.
- **Resources**– Those possessions, which include real and personal property, owned by either an individual or a couple.
The resource limit for an individual is \$2,000 and for a couple is \$3,000.

Some resources are not counted in this limit, or are not counted within certain limits. They include:

- Home property– when the person lives in the home or is temporarily absent from the home (meaning he or she plans to return home).
- One automobile– valued up to \$4,500 of the current market value.
- Household goods and personal items– that have a combined value of not over \$2,000.
- Life insurance– when the value of the policy(ies) for each person totals \$1,500 or less.

Citizenship & Residency

- To be eligible for Medicaid, an applicant must be a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence
- An applicant must be a resident of Mississippi.

Accepting Other Benefits

- Persons must apply for, and accept, all benefits to which he or she may be entitled (such as VA benefits, vocational rehabilitation, etc.) Persons who do not accept these benefits may lose their Medicaid eligibility.

Retroactive Medicaid

- A person may be eligible for Medicaid benefits for up to three (3) months before the month he or she applied if: 1) the person was eligible for SSI during the previous three (3) months, and, 2) He or she had received medical services during any or all of that time.

How Do I Apply?

Applications for Medicaid may be filled out at your regional Medicaid office which serves your home community.

Regional Offices - If you have questions about eligibility or if you want to apply for Medicaid, call toll-free 1-866-635-1347 or contact your nearest Regional Office in:

Brandon 601-825-0477

Brookhaven 601-835-2020

Canton 601-859-3230

Clarksdale 662-627-1493

Cleveland 662-843-7753

Columbia 601-731-2271

Columbus 662-329-2190

Corinth 662-286-8091

Greenville 662-332-9370

Greenwood 662-455-1053

Grenada 662-226-4406

Gulfport 228-863-3328

Hattiesburg 601-264-5386

Holly Springs 662-252-3439

Jackson 601-961- 4361

Kosciusko 662-289-4477

Laurel 601-425-3175

McComb 601-249-2071

Meridian 601- 483-9944

Natchez 601-445-4971

New Albany 662-534-0441

Newton 601-683-2581

Pascagoula 228-762-9591

Philadelphia 601-656-3131

Picayune 601-798-0831

Senatobia 662-562-0147

Starkville 662-323-3688

Tupelo 662-844-5304

Vicksburg 601-638-6137

Yazoo City 662-746-2309