

To the Autism Community

We recently invited a panel of folks to speak about Medicaid Eligibility that resulted in a lively discussion. We all agreed that learning about Medicaid programs for children with disabilities is a challenge. Autism Delaware offered to serve as a facilitator to help parents understand what they need to provide to Medicaid when applying for the *Children's Community Alternative Disability* program. This is important because there are many programs under Medicaid. It's not unusual for eligibility workers to only know their own program, so they don't always steer applicants in the right direction. Also, it is not clear what kind of information you need to provide so that your child will become eligible based on his or her disability. Here is some information that we hope you will find helpful.

Eligibility for Children's Community Alternative Disability

This program is for children's whose disability is so severe that they are at risk of requiring institutionalization. The purpose is to support children to live at home instead of in an intermediate care facility (e.g. Mary Campbell Center), a skilled care facility (nursing home), acute care hospital, psychiatric facility or mental retardation facility (Stockley Center).

The child's income may be no more than 250% of Federal Poverty Level (currently \$1,685 per month). *Parental income is not counted.*

- The child must be under age 19.
- The child may not have assets in his or her name worth more than \$2,000.

The child must qualify *medically* for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) under Section 1614(a) of the Social Security Act. See the link below for more information:
www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/childhoodlistings.pdf

- The qualifying disability is expected to last at least one year
- The child requires a *level of care** but can be cared for safely in the community.
- Medical care received at home must cost less than the cost of care of the appropriate facility care.

*The term, *level of care*, refers to the type, duration and frequency of nursing care and related services that are medically necessary to keep the child at the optimum level of functioning. A medical need or known diagnosis may exist, but, if **no nursing services are required on an ongoing basis to treat the medical need then the child does not require a medical facility level of care.** This decision is **NOT** based solely on diagnosis or type of condition or degree of functional limitation.

Children with autism are not automatically eligible. Eligibility depends on their *level of care*. If your child has severe behavioral and other health issues, she or he is more likely to be eligible.

Where do I apply?

Apply through your local Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance (DMMA) offices. (*Note: I called to test this out and found they were willing to mail the application to my home*). Where you apply is based on your zip code. See below.

Note: Do not apply through a Division of Social Services State Center. They may not understand what you want or direct you to the correct place.

DMMA Office

Zip Codes it serves

16th & Thatcher St.

910 E. 15th St.
Wilmington, DE 19802
577-2174

19703, 19732, 19735
19801, 19802, 19803, 19805,
19806, 19810

Robscott Building

153 E. Chestnut Hill Rd.
Newark, DE 19713
368-6610

19701, 19702, 19706, 19707
19708, 19710, 19711, 19713, 19720
19731, 19733, 19804, 19807, 19808

Smyrna SCC

200 S. DuPont Boulevard, Ste. 101
Smrna, DE 19977
514-4560

19709, 19730, 19934,
19936, 19938
19953, 19955, 19977

Milford State Service Center

11-13 N. Church Avenue
Milford, DE 19963
424-7210

19901, 19902, 19904, 19941, 19942,
19943, 19946, 19950, 19952, 19954
19960, 19961, 19962, 19963, 19964
19979, 19980

Georgetown State Service Center

546 S. Bedford Street
Georgetown, DE 19947
19971, 19973, 19975
856-5379

19930, 19931, 19933, 19939, 19940

19944, 19945, 19947, 19951, 19956,
19958, 19966, 19967, 19968, 19969, 19970,

Required Medical Information

The application packet will contain forms for you to complete, however, it is also important for you to provide the following information, even though it is not initially requested. Medicaid has advised us that the application process will go more smoothly and the chances of your child becoming eligible will be greater if they have this information.

- Chromosomal Studies
- Therapy evaluations , treatment plans & progress notes
- Most recent IEP

- Psychological test results
- IQ test results
- Psychiatric and/or Psychological reports
- Hospital discharge summaries (if applicable)

What Services are provided under Children's Community Alternative Disability?

Medicaid provides comprehensive medical coverage.

Benefits include:

- Private duty nursing services
- Emergency and Non-urgent Transportation Services
- In and Out Patient Hospital Care
- Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Therapies (PT, OT, ST) (Note: Medicaid does NOT provide ABA therapies in Delaware.)
- Home Health Care
- Physicians Care
- Dental Care
- Pharmacy
- Vision Care

When do services end?

Children's Community Alternative Disability is available through the child's 18th year. Once the child reaches age 19, she or he will no longer be eligible; however, she or he should be eligible for SSI and Medicaid at that point.

Be sure to apply for SSI when your child reaches age 18 so that there will be time to establish eligible for SSI and Medicaid as an adult. This will keep services from being interrupted when your child turns 19.