

How Will Health Reform Change Medicaid Eligibility?

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May 2010

Current Eligibility Requirements for Washington Medicaid

- Categorical (family, child, pregnant, disabled, elderly)
- Income – limits vary by program from 40% FPL to 300% FPL
- Resources (except children, pregnant women)
- Immigrant Status
- Resident of Washington
- Social Security Number
- Cooperation/assignment of medical support rights



State program: Basic Health

- Capped at 65,000 enrollees, waiting list of 105,000
- No categorical requirements or immigrant restrictions
- Sliding scale premium up to 200% FPL ranges from \$34 to over \$200/month, based on income, age, and health plan selected.
- Benefits are less comprehensive than Medicaid
- Deductible and copayments and cost-sharing are required
- 9-month pre-existing condition waiting period

State program: GA-U (now called Disability Lifeline)

- Entitlement program for incapacitated persons
- 2-year time limit starting Sept. 1
- Some immigrant restrictions
- No premiums or cost-sharing
- Benefits are somewhat less than Medicaid



National Health Reform Requires Medicaid Expansion in 2014

- No categorical requirements
- Income up to 133% federal poverty
- No resource limits
- Immigrant Status
- Resident of Washington
- Social Security Number
- Cooperation/assignment of medical support rights

Who benefits from Medicaid expansion?

- People not in categories currently eligible for Medicaid
- People in existing Medicaid categories whose income exceeds eligibility limits but is below 133% FPL
- Note: Scope of benefits for expansion groups may be more limited than existing Medicaid groups



State Seeks Medicaid “Bridge” Waiver through 2013

- National Health Reform allows early expansion of Medicaid.
- State seeks to add GA-U and existing Basic Health Enrollees as soon as possible – would provide a 50% federal match.
 - What changes will CMS require in these programs?
- If waiver is granted
 - 2-year time limit for GA-U medical is eliminated
 - 4,000 new Basic Health slots are added

The Future of Basic Health 2014 and beyond

Beginning in 2014 . . .

- Medicaid will be available to those with income below 133% of federal poverty.
- For those with income between 133%-200% of federal poverty, National health reform allows a state to exercise the “Basic Health Option” modeled on Washington’s program. Otherwise, the Exchange is available, with tax credits to lower costs.
- Immigrant restrictions apply to these programs.



Opportunities for Involvement

- DSHS is developing the design of the Bridge Waiver over next few months
 - Revised “concept paper” now available
 - Stakeholder workgroup – biweekly calls with HRSA
 - Waiver website to be developed by state
- 2014 Medicaid program design
- 2014 – should state exercise the Basic Health option?

