ALASKA MEDICAID FACTS

Who is covered in Alaska’s Medicaid Program?

ELIGIBILITY GROUPS

FFS¹
- Children (0-18 years)
- Parents and other Caretaker Relatives
- Pregnant Women
- Aged, Blind, and Disabled Adults
- Disabled Children
- Current & Former Foster Care Children
- Dual Eligibles

Potential Developments on the Horizon

June 2016 - The recently signed Medicaid reform bill projects savings of more than $365 million over six years, a key factor in a state facing a $3 billion shortfall for FY 2017. In response to the budget problems, the state’s Medicaid program recently delayed some payments to providers until the new fiscal year in July.²

December 2016 - Alaska’s Medicaid program released the Medicaid Coordinated Care Demonstration Project RFP, soliciting proposals for three different health care models, including managed care organizations (MCOs). Proposals were due April 17, 2017.³

Do Medicaid health plans provide coverage?

YES NO

Medicaid Coordinated Care Demonstration Project RFP is currently soliciting proposals for MCOs.

How has Alaska’s Medicaid program engaged in Managed Care?⁴

The Alaska Behavioral Health Demonstration was created to implement an integrated behavioral health system for Medicaid beneficiaries with severe mental illness, severe emotional disturbance and/or substance use disorders. The goal is to utilize partnerships between multiple providers to provide evidence-based, data-driven practices. The waiver application was submitted on 02/15/2018, and as of June 2018, is still pending approval.

STATUS: Application pending approval

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How is Alaska meeting the needs of Medicaid enrollees?

**Family Planning**
Women enrolled in Denali KidCare are covered for family planning supplies and services (e.g., counseling, contraceptive creams, gels, foams, birth control, and condoms, based on provider prescription) through the end of the month in which the 60th postpartum day falls.

**Women’s Health**
Alaska Medicaid covers regular prenatal checkups and services provided by physicians, advanced practice nurse practitioners or direct entry midwives. Postpartum services are covered until 60 days after the end of pregnancy.

**Behavioral Health**
Medicaid enrollees are provided coverage for mental health and substance use disorder benefits through **Community Behavioral Health Services (CBHCs)**. Through CBHCs, enrollees have access to screenings, clinics, and rehabilitation services for adults and children.

Benefits include (but are not limited to):
- Crisis intervention and stabilization
- Day treatment services for children (school provided)
- Psychotherapy
- Community support services (life skills and encouragement coaching)
- Telemedicine facilitation
- Residential detoxification
- Drug therapies (only naloxone, naltrexone, and disulfiram)

**Oral Health**
The Alaska Oral Health Program provides extensive services coverage for children under age 21 and emergency/limited non-emergent dental coverage for adults. Benefits for children include emergency, routine (dentures, crowns, caps, root canals, and oral surgery), and preventive services (e.g., exam, X-ray, scaling, polishing, fluoride treatments, and sealants). Medicaid-eligible adults are covered for preventive services (e.g., exams and cleanings) and routine services (e.g., fillings, crowns, root canals, and dentures) up to $1,150 annually. Emergency dental services do not count toward their annual limit.
Federal

- President Johnson signs Social Security Amendments of 1965, creating Medicaid as public health program for the poor.
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services are a requirement for children enrolled in Medicaid.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program becomes Medicaid eligibility category for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Alaska

- State of Alaska adopts Medicaid program.

1965

1967

1972

1972

1981

1984

1989

1990

1997

1999

State establishes the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known as Denali KidCare.

1999

1999

1999

Balanced Budget Act of 1997 allows Medicaid to be delivered through managed care organizations; State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) created; states now have option to provide coverage for uninsured children in low-income families above FPL.

Olmstead decision allows expanded HCBS coverage for persons with disabilities.

Children up to age 6 and pregnant women up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) become eligible; EPSDT benefit expanded. Mandatory eligibility extended to children ages 6 to 18 years in families up to 100 percent FPL; eligibility phased in from 1990 through 2002.

Children and pregnant women become mandatory Medicaid eligibility groups.

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers created for Long-Term Care (LTC) and Disproportional Share Hospital (DSH) payments.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) expands Medicaid eligibility to adults with incomes up to 138 percent FPL.


ACA implementation begins.

32 states and the District of Columbia (DC) have expanded Medicaid since passage of the ACA.

Last Updated: June 2018

For a complete list of sources, please contact the Institute for Medicaid Innovation at Info@MedicaidInnovation.org

July 2015 - Alaska Governor Walker informs the State Legislative Budget and Audit Committee that he intends to expand Medicaid by accepting additional federal and Mental Health Trust Fund Authority money.

September 2015 - Beginning September 1, 2015, Alaska expanded Medicaid eligibility to adults ages 19 to 64 with incomes up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

June 2016 - Alaska Governor Bill Walker signs SB74, a Medicaid reform bill passed by the Legislature in April, which includes expanded use of primary care case management (PCCM), accountable care demonstration projects, and telemedicine.