

Medicaid for the Aged, Blind and Disabled

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What is ABD Medicaid?

Medicaid for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) is available to certain Ohioans to assist with medical expenses. Ohioans who are aged, blind or have a disability (as classified by the Social Security Administration) must meet established financial guidelines in order to be eligible. Some consumers in the ABD Medicaid program (125,000 consumers) access services through managed care while the remaining population access care through a fee-for-service delivery system.

What services are covered under Medicaid?

ABD health care coverage consists of the primary and acute care benefit package and long-term care if a person has the required level of care need. Covered services include prescription drugs*, home care, doctor visits, hospital care, laboratory and x-rays, medical equipment and supplies, dental care, transportation, mental health, vision services, long-term care, alcohol and drug rehabilitation and other services.

What long-term care services are available?

ABD Medicaid provides long-term care services in Nursing Facilities (NFs) and Intermediate Care Facilities for the mentally retarded (ICF-MRs). Home and Community Based Services Waivers provide home health care to individuals who wish to stay in their home but otherwise need institutional care. The number of consumers that can be enrolled in a waiver program at any one time is limited. There are several types of waivers:

- *Ohio Home Care Waiver* meets the home care needs of individuals, up to age 60, whose medical condition would otherwise require them to live in a nursing home or other institution.

*Medicare beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicaid get prescriptions coverage through Medicare. Some exceptions apply.

ABD Consumer	Basic Requirements	Countable Monthly Income Standards*	Resources**
Individuals & Couples 65 and over	Documentation of Age	Individuals \$543	Individuals \$1500
Individuals & Couples under 65	Medical Proof of physical or mental impairment that prohibits work and that has lasted or will last 12 months or longer	Couples \$934	Couples \$2250

* SSI is not counted; certain deductions such as medical expenses may be allowed by a process called "Spendedown".
 ** Some resources are exempt from asset test such as home, 1 car.



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- *PASSPORT Waiver* provides in-home services to individuals age 60 and older.
- *Individual Options and Level One Waivers* provide support services for persons with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities.
- *Assisted Living Waiver* offers more supervision and services than what may be available in a traditional home setting and allows consumers to have more independence and fewer restrictions than a nursing facility.

How to Apply

To apply for ABD Medicaid, an application and an interview need to be completed at the local county department of job and family services. For phone numbers to the local departments, call the Consumer Hotline at 1-800-324-8680.

Medicare Premium Assistance Program

Ohioans who are on Medicare may be able to receive Medicaid assistance to pay for all or some of the Medicare premiums and/or coinsurance and deductibles.

A short, mail-in application is available for the Medicare Premium Assistance program. Call the Consumer Hotline toll-free at 1-800-324-8680 or TDD at 1-800-292-3572 to receive an application or additional information.

What if an Ohioan meets ABD eligibility requirements except their income is too high?

Ohioans who are aged, blind or have a disability may qualify for Medicaid after they have incurred or paid a specific amount of medical bills. This is called Medicaid "Spendedown." Spendedown allows individuals to deduct medical expenses from their income so that income will fall within Medicaid income guidelines.

If eligible for Spendedown, the consumer is required to submit proof of medical expenses that meet or exceed the Spendedown amount. Once the spendedown has been met, the consumer is eligible for Medicaid. The date of Medicaid eligibility depends on the date the consumer reaches his or her spendedown. Spendedown eligibility is a monthly process.

