



MEDICAID 101

- The Medicaid program was created in 1965.
- It provides federal funds to states to assist their providing basic health care services.
- Long-term services are provided to individuals who have functional impairments that require continuing assistance and/or treatment.
- It is jointly funded and administered by the federal government and the states.
- Medicaid programs differ considerably state-to-state.
- The program offers services to both mandatory and optional eligibility groups.
- States must use their own or local tax dollars (called "matching dollars") to meet their Medicaid expenditures.
- To expand Medicaid services, a state must provide additional tax dollars in order to obtain federal financial participation
- Each state spells out the scope of its Medicaid program in a document called the "state plan."
- The state can change coverage, eligibility and the scope and amount of services annually.
- Eligibility is the "portal" through which people must pass in order to obtain Medicaid services.
- On the other side of this portal lie services that people can obtain.
- Home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver authority permits a state to obtain Federal Financial Participation (FFP) when it provides community services as an alternative to individuals otherwise eligible for institutional services.
- HCBS waivers offer greater flexibility in choice of services and providers.
- States have been incorporating consumer-directed/family-directed options into their HCBS waiver programs.
- There is a family-directed option that positions the family to recruit, hire and fire, and supervise workers and authorize payments to them through a fiscal intermediary.

Mandatory Services in Wisconsin's State Medicaid Plan (bold indicates mandatory Federal services):

Case management services
Chiropractic services
Dental services
Family planning services
Health Check (EPSDT)
HCBS waiver
Home health services or nursing
Hospice care
Inpatient hospital services
Inpatient hospital, nursing home
Intermediate care facility services
Laboratory and X-ray services
Drugs listed in Wisconsin's Medicaid's drug index
Medical supplies and equipment
Mental health and medical day treatment

Mental health and psychosocial rehabilitative services
Nurse midwife services
Nursing services
Optometric
Outpatient hospital services
Personal care services
Physical and occupational therapy
Physician services.
Podiatry services
Prenatal care coordination
Respiratory care services
Rural health clinic services
Skilled nursing home services
Speech, hearing, and language disorder
Substance abuse services
Transportation to obtain medical care