

# Medicaid Eligibility Guide for a Disabled Child Living At-Home



The Disabled Child Living At-Home group is a special eligibility category that allows certain children who are residents of Mississippi with long-term disabilities or complex medical needs, living at home with their families, to qualify for Medicaid.

## Eligibility Requirements

Children who may not be eligible for other Medicaid programs because the income or assets of their parent(s) are too high may be eligible for Medicaid through the Disabled Child Living At-Home program **if the child meets all of the following criteria**:

1. The child is under age 19 and determined to be disabled using Social Security disability rules.
2. The child requires a level of care at home that is typically provided in a hospital or nursing facility or intermediate care facility (including an intermediate care facility for the intellectually disabled.)
3. The child can be provided safe and appropriate care in the family home.
4. The child does not have income or assets in his or her name in excess of the current standards for an individual in long term care.
5. The child does not incur a cost to the Medicaid Program that exceeds the cost Medicaid would pay if the child were in an institutional setting.

***This program is in compliance with federal regulations: 42 CFR §§435.225, 409.31-409.34, 440.10, 440.150, and 483.440.***

## Information Likely to Support the Application

- Documentation of a history/physical exam completed within the last 12 months including the frequency, duration, and cause of inpatient hospitalizations and emergency room visits.
- Medical records from any treating provider (physician, therapist, etc.) with examples of observed tasks that demonstrate or support the existing level of functioning as it relates to the child's need for assistance with age appropriate activities of daily living and the need for care in an institution.
- Parents may provide examples of a child's routine schedule, which documents the type of intensive care required to actually care for the child's daily needs. Please include any specialized parent training in the past 12 months specifically related to the care of the child's medical condition, i.e., training in CPR, glucose monitoring, suctioning, behavior modification, etc.

## General Information

- Qualification is not based on a diagnosis or disability alone, but the child's medically documented institutional level of care needs from the preceding 12-months. A child who is medically stable, even though disabled, is not considered in need of this level of care.
- Benefits cannot be provided to a child whose need is shared by all children of the same age. Consideration is given to the child's age and the usual expected developmental level of functioning for his/her particular age group.
- A parent or authorized representative may reapply at any time if the child's medical condition changes significantly.

**Summary of Institutional Level of Care**

**Hospital** – this level of care is appropriate for children who continuously require the type of care and treatment provided in an inpatient setting. These services must be furnished safely and effectively in the home setting, just as in an inpatient hospital setting.

**Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities** – this level of care is appropriate for children who require active treatment services. Active treatment includes aggressive, consistent implementation of a program of specialized and generic training, treatment, health services and related services directed toward:

- The acquisition of the behaviors necessary for the child to function with as much self-determination and independence as possible; and,
- The prevention or deceleration of regression or loss of current optimal functional status.

**Nursing Facility** – this level of care is appropriate for children who do not require hospital care but do require, on a regular basis, licensed nursing services, rehabilitation services, or other health-related services needed due to the child’s mental or physical condition that is ordinarily provided in an institution.

**How to Apply** – complete the Medicaid application form for aged, blind and disabled individuals. This form is available on the Medicaid website at [www.medicaid.ms.gov](http://www.medicaid.ms.gov) or may be obtained by calling or visiting your local Medicaid Regional Office. The Medicaid office will provide the parent with all necessary forms that must be completed during the application process.

- The Medicaid Regional Office will determine if the child is eligible on all non-financial and financial eligibility factors.
- The child’s medical information is first sent to the Disability Determination Service (DDS) for a disability decision using Social Security disability rules. If the child is determined to be disabled, the process continues;
- The next step is the institutional level of care review process. Information that specifically addresses the nature and extent of the child’s condition will be reviewed with respect to functional abilities and overall medical, developmental and/or behavioral presentation. The needs of the family in caring for the child at home and in the community are also considered. The need for an institutional level of care must be approved by medical review staff in order for the child to qualify for Medicaid.
- The Medicaid Regional Office will send the parent a notice with the agency’s decision. If denied, the decision can be appealed through a state level hearing process.

If you have questions about Medicaid eligibility or want to apply, call (toll free) 1-800-421-2408 or contact your nearest Medicaid Regional Office in:

Brandon	601-825-0477
Brookhaven	601-835-2020
Canton	601-978-2399
Clarksdale	662-627-1493
Cleveland	662-843-7753
Columbia	601-731-2271
Columbus	662-329-2190
Corinth	662-286-8091
Greenville	662-332-9370
Greenwood	662-455-1053
Grenada	662-226-4406
Gulfport	228-863-3328
Hattiesburg	601-264-5386
Holly Springs	662-252-3439
Jackson	601-978-2399
Kosciusko	662-289-4477
Laurel	601-425-3175
McComb	601-249-2071
Meridian	601-483-9944
Natchez	601-445-4971
New Albany	662-534-0441
Newton	601-635-5205
Pascagoula	228-762-9591
Philadelphia	601-656-3131
Picayune	601-798-0831
Senatobia	662-562-0147
Starkville	662-323-3688
Tupelo	662-844-5304
Vicksburg	601-638-6137
Yazoo City	662-746-2309

The Division of Medicaid complies with all state and federal policies which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, age, sex, national origin, handicap or disability as defined through the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.