

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