



COVID-19 Federal Resource Guideline Series: Medicaid

What needed activities and services does Medicaid pay for?

While each state's Medicaid program is different, in general, it pays for a comprehensive range of medical services, including preventative care, diagnostics and treatment. In addition, in many states it pays for housing related services such as case management and landlord relations.

Who is eligible?

In every state, Medicaid serves people with extremely limited financial assets and income, who are in at least one of three groups: minor children and their custodial parents (including many pregnant women); people over age 65; and people who have a severe disability. Most states have also "expanded" Medicaid, to cover everyone who meets financial eligibility requirements. The 14 states that have not yet expanded Medicaid could substantially improve medical care for homeless individuals by doing so.

What funds are available?

Medicaid is an entitlement program, in that it will pay for all eligible services for any eligible person. Total spending in 2018 was \$593 billion.

How can you find more information?

Many communities have health care providers who regularly bill Medicaid for health services they provide. Among the providers are Community Health Centers and Health Care for the Homeless clinics. State government manages the overall Medicaid system in a state, including administering a state plan that specifies eligible services. In larger states, administration of some aspects of Medicaid is delegated to counties. ([Find Medicaid contacts and info by state](#)).

For more information on the interaction between Medicaid and housing, please refer to the article, [Medicaid Doesn't Pay For Housing. Here's What It Can Do To Help Meet Enrollees' Social Needs](#) (Health Affairs, January 2020)