

Minnesota's Medical Assistance (MA) (Medicaid) Program

Approximately 366,000 Minnesotans receive health care coverage through Medical Assistance (MA) — Minnesota's Medicaid program — the largest of the state's three health care programs. MA is a joint federally/state-funded program which provides necessary medical services for low-income families, children, pregnant women, and people who are elderly (65 or older) or have disabilities.

The federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) administers Medicaid nationwide, providing funding, approving state plans, and ensuring compliance with federal regulations. In Minnesota, the Department of Human Services (DHS) oversees the Medicaid (Medical Assistance) program, administered locally by counties and jointly funded by \$2.9 billion a year in federal and state funds. Medicaid is the largest single source of federal funding in Minnesota's budget. DHS translates federal Medicaid law and policy into state MA rule and policy, and makes recommendations and advises the Legislature about state laws relating to the program.

Who's eligible for MA?

- Families, children and pregnant women, with varying incomes, depending on a variety of factors. This group represents 68 percent of all MA enrollees, but only 22 percent of expenditures.
- People who are disabled or blind, at certain incomes (19 percent of MA enrollees; 43 percent of expenditures)
- Elderly people at certain incomes (13 percent of MA enrollees; 35 percent of expenditures)