



## **Ligas Family Advocate Program IL Medicaid General Q & A - 2021**

**You must be enrolled in IL Medicaid in order to access the Home and Community Based waiver funding for adults with developmental disabilities. Below are some general questions and answers that can assist.**

**Q.** At what age should a person apply for IL Medicaid when waiting on the PUNS for adult waiver funding?

**A.** Many children in Illinois are enrolled in Medicaid. If you were on IL Medicaid (All Kids) as a child age 18 or younger, apply at age 18 as an adult and e-mail [hfs.aca@illinois.gov](mailto:hfs.aca@illinois.gov) for assistance in transitioning to adult Medicaid. Share the applicant's D.O.B., Social Security number (SSN), RIN or confirmation # of online Medicaid application). **NOTE: Children enrolled in All Kids age 18 turning 19 will remain in All Kids until the end of the public health emergency (PHE) and the transition period begins. This will be at least until March 2022 based on current information. There will be no gap in coverage. Transition to adult Medicaid is not happening now. Individuals will receive a Medicaid redetermination notice sometime next year as everyone is reassessed. There will be advance notice when the state begins transitioning everyone but it depends on if the federal government extends the PHE again after December 2021.**

If you have never been enrolled in Medicaid, are 18 and have SSI, apply at age 18: <https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/> If no SSI at age 18 or older you may have to share medical records to show disability. (Note: Apply for SSI first: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/> )

**Q:** Who should I reach out to after getting the DHS early notice of a PUNS selection or the DHS PUNS selection with questions about applying for Medicaid or assisting an adult son/daughter with applying?

**A:** Your Independent Service Coordination (ISC) agency. Find your ISC here: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12&officetype=3>

**Q:** As a parent, do I have to include my income and my spouse's income when I assist my adult son/daughter with their Medicaid application?

**A:** This is determined by the MAGI Rules- if someone applies for Medicaid and is a dependent on someone else's tax return, regardless of their age, the income of all household members must be divulged. The link to the 2019 update of the definitive guide to this topic: <https://healthlaw.org/resources/advocates-guide-to-magi/#> If the Medicaid applicant is 18 years old or younger and lives at home, Medicaid will ask for parents' income during the application process. If you are found ineligible for IL Medicaid as over-income, but have SSI, the application will be re-processed under Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD). (This is the reason we suggest applying for SSI first).

**Q:** As a parent, a relative or friend of an individual with a developmental disability, can I help with the IL Medicaid application?

**A:** Yes. If you are a guardian, you must attach an approved representative form to a written application: See: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/onenetlibrary/12/documents/Forms/IL444-2998-IES.pdf> Attach a copy of legal guardianship to the 2998 form if signing the application for an adult son or daughter. When completing the application online, upload the guardianship order and complete the approved representative document.

**Q:** If I cannot verify identity through the online Medicaid application, how do I verify identity?

**A:** Use the State Identify Proofing Request Form:—see list of documents that will suffice: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/onenetlibrary/12/documents/Forms/IL444-3610.pdf>

**Q:** Where can I get information about Medicaid spend down and pay-in spend down?

**A:** <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/info/Brochures%20and%20Forms/Brochures/Pages/HFS591SP.aspx>

**Q:** As a parent, can my adult son/daughter be Medicaid eligible if they currently have health insurance through my employer health insurance policy or my spouse's policy?

**A:** Yes, Medicaid pays last. Many individuals have health insurance through their employment or are on a parent's employer health insurance policy. Some also have Medicare because they receive Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI) either on the basis of the individual's work history or as a Disabled Adult Child of a worker who is retired, disabled or deceased.

One must be Medicaid eligible and enrolled in Medicaid to access the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver for adults with developmental disabilities in IL.

**Q:** If I am not Medicaid eligible due to my work income but I have a developmental disability and want to use the waiver funding what options do I have?

**A:** You may be eligible for Health Benefits for Workers with Disabilities, a Medicaid buy in program: <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalPrograms/hbwd/Pages/default.aspx>

**1619b:** <https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/1619b.htm>,

**AABD Spenddown:**

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/info/Brochures%20and%20Forms/Brochures/Pages/HFS591SP.aspx>

**Q:** How long does it take for HFS to process my Medicaid application?

**A:** The Illinois Medicaid Manual states that caseworkers have 45 days to process most Medicaid applications but 60 days for a Medicaid application based on disability.

**Q:** If I am selected from the PUNS and still have not applied for Medicaid is there any way to speed up the application process?

**A:** Yes, reach out to your ISC for further information.

**Q:** How do I apply for Medicaid?

**A:** The online application can be accessed at: <https://www.abe.illinois.gov> and the downloadable written application can be accessed at: <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/hfs2378h.pdf>

**Q:** If I have a question about a Medicaid application, a temporary Medicaid card, my annual redetermination of Medicaid eligibility, or change of status, can I contact Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) directly? (Note: Medicaid redeterminations are on hold during the duration of the pandemic emergency)

**A:** Yes. Call 877-805-5312.

**Q:** If I am on the DDD waiver now and have a question about my annual redetermination of Medicaid eligibility, who do I contact? (Note: Annual redeterminations of Medicaid eligibility are on hold during the duration of the pandemic emergency)

**A:** Email [DHS.DD.MediRede@illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.DD.MediRede@illinois.gov). If you do not receive a response within 72 hours contact Mikie Salmon at [Mikie.Salmon@illinois.gov](mailto:Mikie.Salmon@illinois.gov) or 217-557-9253.

### **What you need to know about SNAP benefits**

SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, often referred to by its former name - Food Stamps. This is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. You can apply for SNAP at the same time that you apply for Medicaid. However, the SNAP program has its own rules for income and eligibility.

- People who live in a NFP (not-for-profit) CILA (and ICILA) should apply for and maintain SNAP benefits.
- People with disabilities who live at home are considered to be a “household unit” until they reach their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday. This means that the income of all household members is counted.
- For more SNAP information, see: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30357>

Temporary SNAP amounts and basis of issuance through 6/31/21:

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=131497>

### **Glossary of helpful terms**

DOB = Date of Birth

SSN = Social Security Number

RIN= Recipient Identification Number (issued by HFS)

HFS = Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, our state’s Medicaid agency

DHS= Illinois Department of Human Services- they have an agreement with HFS to handle Medicaid and SNAP (Food Stamp) applications and redeterminations. This is handled by the DHS Division of Family and Community Services.

ABE = Application for Benefits Eligibility (online application site)

**Redeterminations (redes):** Redes for Medicaid enrollees in general: (Note: Medicaid benefits eligibility annual redeterminations are not occurring during the duration of the pandemic emergency)

People can either attempt to use ABE or complete and mail back the form they receive.

The rede form is not available on the HFS website.

Some people do not get rede notices, as the data system used by DHS is able to verify them automatically. This is called an “ex parte renewal”.

Rede letters and forms are sent out to people when additional information is required.

Blank rede forms are not available online (you may want to make a copy of the one mailed to you prior to completing it; otherwise, you must contact DHS to obtain a replacement form).