

- MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FACT SHEET -

Bridges to Health Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver (B2H) Medicaid Eligibility Determination for B2H Children Discharged from Foster Care

Children who are in the care and custody of a Local Social Services (LDSS) Commissioner or the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services are categorically eligible for Medicaid, as long as they are United States citizens or meet satisfactory immigration status and are otherwise eligible.

Once children are discharged from foster care and are no longer in the care and custody of a LDSS or OCFS Commissioner, a separate Medicaid eligibility determination must be made for the child based on general eligibility requirements and the B2H budgeting methodology specified below.

General eligibility requirements for Medicaid specify verification and documentation of:

- New York State residency
- US Citizenship or appropriate immigration status
- Identity
- Age (if appropriate)
- Social security number (SSN), documentation that a SSN has been “applied for”, or proof that a SSN was applied for and was denied.

The Medicaid budgeting methodology for a B2H waiver participant discharged from foster care is as follows:

- Use a household size of one and Budget Type 01 (ADC-related) or 04 (SSI-related)—whichever methodology is most beneficial to the child.
- Disregard parental income and resources.
- Budget the child's own income and resources.
- Apply appropriate income and resource disregards for either the ADC-related or SSI-related eligibility category.
- Compare the child's income and resources to the Medically Needy level.
- If the child's income and resources are at or below the Medically Needy level, the child is fully eligible for Medicaid.
- If the child's income and/or resources exceed the Medically Needy level, the child may spenddown to the Medically Needy level.

Please Note: It is only necessary to do a disability determination if SSI-related budgeting methodology is used to determine the child's B2H eligibility.

Bridges to Health Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver

- FACT SHEET-

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) and Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) are authorized by the federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to implement a new Medicaid program, "Bridges to Health"(B2H) for foster care children under age 21. Waiver services are expected to begin January 1, 2008.

B2H will provide community based services to children who are in the care and custody of a Local Social Services District (LDSS) or OCFS, who have significant mental health, developmental disabilities or health care needs, and who require an institutional level of care.

Administered as three separate targeted 1915(c) Medicaid waivers, the program will be phased in gradually, with a total 3,305 participant slots distributed between the three waivers by 2010: 2,688 serious emotional disturbance (B2H/SED); 541 developmentally disabled (B2H/DD); 76 slots medically fragile (B2H/MedF).

Each waiver will provide the same authorized services:

- Accessibility modifications
- Adaptive and assistive equipment
- Crisis Respite
- Crisis avoidance, management and training
- Day habilitation
- Family care giver supports and services
- Health Care Integration
- Immediate crisis response services
- Intensive in-home supports
- Planned Respite
- Prevocational services
- Skill building
- Special needs community advocacy and support
- Supported Employment

Children discharged from foster care may remain in the program if they are otherwise Medicaid eligible based on a household of one and the child's own income and resources.

OCFS will operate the program through LDSS offices statewide. DOH has overall responsibility for oversight of the program as the Single State Medicaid Agency. CONNECTIONS will be used to record information on B2H Enrollment and Services and the B2H Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool beginning March 2008.

Program information is available on the web at <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/B2H>.