

PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Your Interviewer Can Explain These Programs In More Detail.

Work First: *Work First* is about helping families achieve self-sufficiency—helping adults support themselves and provide for their children. *Work First* promotes personal responsibility and employment. To help families reach their self-sufficiency goals, *Work First* provides employment services, other supportive services, and time-limited cash assistance to families with children under age 18. The family is referred to child support to help get additional financial support for the children. If eligible, the family may also receive Medicaid. A family must meet income, resource, and citizenship rules.

Benefit Diversion is an alternative to *Work First* cash assistance. A family that qualifies for Benefit Diversion is provided:

- A one-time cash payment of up to 3 months of *Work First Family Assistance* benefits. Cash payments stop after this one check;
- Up to 3 months of Medicaid ;
- Child care, transportation, and work-related expenses, if needed; and
- Child support services and referrals to other community and agency services.

While Benefit Diversion is not appropriate for all families, it provides immediate help to families who are employed, soon-to-be-employed, between jobs, or who anticipate receiving financial assistance in the near future, whether or not related to employment, that will help meet their needs. This financial assistance may include child support, an inheritance, insurance settlement, etc. Benefit Diversion is to help families who need one-time, temporary assistance.

Child Day Care: Each county receives funding from the Division of Child Development for subsidized child care services to help families pay for child care. To qualify, family income must be within the income guidelines based on family size. Most families who are *Work First* recipients qualify for financial assistance to help with child care expenses. Families that need child care to work or attend school are required to pay a fee based on their gross countable monthly income and the number of people in the family. The family pays only one fee, regardless of the number of children in care.

Parents are free to choose the type of licensed child care arrangement they wish to use. Information is provided about how to select a child care center or home and the star rated licensing system.

Emergency Assistance: Emergency Assistance is available to help families with limited income and resources to cope with crisis situations that are beyond their control. This includes help to pay unexpected bills.

Food and Nutrition: The Food and Nutrition Program helps low-income families or individuals buy food. Families must meet income, resource, citizenship, and work rules. If you buy and cook your food separately from others living with you, you may be able to apply as a separate household. Eligible households receive monthly benefits to buy food.

Crisis Intervention Program (CIP): This program is for households in a heating or cooling-related emergency who have income less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. Eligible households get up to \$300 assistance to buy fuel or to pay their electric or gas bill.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP): This program pays a check once a year to eligible low-income households to help with their heating bills. Families getting food assistance may receive this check automatically, without a separate application. Applications are taken once a year in the fall.

State/County Special Assistance to Adults (SA): This program provides assistance for persons living in adult care homes (rest homes) who are in financial need and who are age 65 or older or who are between age 18 and 65 and are disabled or blind. It also provides Special Assistance In-Home (SA-IH) Payments for persons living at home, who are in financial need, and who are age 65 or older or who are between age 18 and 65 who are disabled or blind, who are in need of Adult Care Home (ACH) level of care, but wish to remain at home. There are a capped number of SA-IH slots statewide, with 87 participating counties.

There are income and resource limits for both SA programs. If you qualify for SA in an Adult Care Home, you will, in most circumstances, get a monthly check to help pay for your cost of care. You will automatically receive a Medicaid card. The adult care home will also receive a payment from the Medicaid Program to cover personal care services.

To qualify for SA-IH assistance, you must first meet the Medicaid eligibility requirements for Medicaid Categorically Needy. This means your countable monthly income cannot exceed 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. Your actual SA-IH payment cannot exceed more than 75% of what your payment would be if you resided in an Adult Care Home. You must also be assessed by a Social Worker Case Manager to determine your needs, to see if you can remain safely at home with the SA-IH payment and the services provided by the program.

Medical Assistance (Medicaid): This program helps families or individuals with medical bills such as doctor fees, prescription drugs, hospital charges, and nursing home care. Persons who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Work First Family Assistance, or State/County Special Assistance (SA) also get Medicaid. SSI recipients do not have to apply at the county department of social services to get Medicaid.

Other persons can also get Medicaid. There are several different types of Medicaid. All have income limits, and some have resource limits. Your caseworker will explain these to you.

- Aged (65 and older), disabled, or blind persons.
- Persons with Medicare coverage may be eligible for limited assistance with costs associated with Medicare. Medicare beneficiaries with income up to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) may be eligible for payment of Medicare premiums, co-payments and deductibles for Medicare covered services. Medicare beneficiaries with income between 100% and 135% of the FPL may qualify to have their Medicare Part B premium paid.
- Families with children through age 20. The parents or the caretaker relative of children under age 19 may also be able to receive Medicaid.
- Individuals through age 20.
- Children under age 6 whose family's income is equal to or less than 200% of the FPL. This limit is higher than for older children. There is no resource limit.
- Children age 6 through age 18 whose family's income is equal to or less than 100 % of the FPL. There is no resource limit.

- Pregnant women, with or without other children. The income limit is 185% of the FPL. There is no resource limit.
- Women age 19 through 55 and men age 19 through 60 who are not eligible for other Medicaid may receive limited Family Planning Medicaid. The income limit is 185% of the FPL. There is no resource limit.

Persons who are eligible will get a Medicaid card each month. Medicaid may also cover medical bills from the three months before the month you apply.

N.C. Health Choice for Children: Children age 6 through age 18 who are not eligible for Medicaid, who do not have other health insurance, and whose family's income is not more than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) may be eligible for a special medical insurance coverage called "**NC HEALTH CHOICE FOR CHILDREN.**"

This insurance covers a wide range of medical care including doctor's care, hospitalization, prescription medicine, and dental and eye care. If the family's income is more than 150% of the FPL, the family may be charged an annual enrollment fee of not more than \$100. Co-payments for certain services may also be charged.