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PRESS RELEASE

“What is Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicaid?”

The news is abuzz with the talk of health care, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). At this point, there is no reliable prediction of what will happen, so Randolph County Department of Social Services wants to tell you about a program that is in existence now and how DSS can help.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a Federal income supplement program. It is designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income. Blind or disabled children may also get SSI. It provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. North Carolina contracted with the Social Security Administration (SSA) under Section 1634 of the Social Security Act to determine Medicaid eligibility for aged, blind, and disabled individuals who receive SSI. This contract is called a “1634 Agreement” and was effective January 1, 1995.

Under this agreement, in North Carolina an application for SSI is also an application for Medicaid. This means that individuals who are eligible for SSI also qualify for North Carolina Medicaid coverage. Eligibility for Medicaid begins with the first day of the month in which eligibility for SSI begins and continues as long as the individual remains eligible for SSI.

Your local county Department of Social Services (DSS) can assist with certain parts of the SSI Medicaid program. Contact the DSS to:

- Replace a lost Medicaid Card
- Report a move to a different county
- Apply for care in a nursing home or rest home
- Change medical providers
- Report a move to North Carolina from another state

Each county Department of Social Services has Medicaid caseworkers available to handle these requests. To reach a caseworker, contact your local DSS. In Randolph County that number is 336-683-8000 or visit us at the Asheboro or Archdale office. SSI Medicaid is automatic and the process begins at the Social Security office. Other Medicaid programs begin with an application to determine if you or a family member are eligible. You may apply in person at your local DSS...or online at <https://epass.nc.gov/CitizenPortal/application.do>.

For more information about Medicaid, visit the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) website at <http://ncdhhs.gov/division/dma> or see <http://www.randolphcountync.gov/>

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