



RANDOLPH COUNTY
Department of Social Services

Beth W. Duncan
Director

Samuel R. Frazier
Board Chair

PRESS RELEASE

“Lots of Headlines about Reforming or Expanding, But What is Medicaid?”

Currently, in North Carolina Medicaid is a health insurance program that serves low income parents, children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Medicaid should not be confused with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and its related tax subsidies for those that qualify. ACA and the “Marketplace” is a system to purchase health insurance. Medicaid is not purchased and is only provided to eligible low income individuals. The program is funded by a combination of federal, state, and county tax dollars. In Randolph County, over 27,880 individuals receive some sort of Medicaid benefits.

Medicaid in North Carolina has different types of coverage for people with different needs. Eligibility groups include:

- Aged, Blind and Disabled
- Infants, Children and Families
- Long-Term Care
- Medicare Recipients

To be eligible for North Carolina Medicaid, income and resource limits apply and vary for each group. Additional qualifications include that you must be a resident of the State of North Carolina, a US national, citizen, permanent resident, or qualified or special alien. You must also be either pregnant, blind, have a disability, be responsible for children under 19 years of age, be 65 years of age or older, or be a Medicare recipient.

To receive Medicaid, you do not have to go through a physical or other type of exam. However, if you are applying because you are disabled, a medical exam may be required. If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you are automatically covered for North Carolina Medicaid. If you are applying for Medicaid because you are pregnant, proof of pregnancy is required. You may apply in person at the County Department of Social Services (DSS) in the county where you live or on-line at <https://www.epass.nc.gov/CitizenPortal/application.do>.

Many are concerned about what the future holds for Medicaid in North Carolina. For more information about Medicaid visit the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) website at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dma> or call your local DSS. In Randolph County call 336-683-8000 or visit <http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/>.

P.O. Box 3239 • Asheboro, North Carolina 27204

www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/

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