We Have Your New Year’s Resolution:  
Make the Most of Your Child’s Medicaid Benefits

If your child is covered by Wisconsin Medicaid, do you really know all the important benefits that are available? You probably know that your child’s ForwardHealth card (a.k.a. Medicaid insurance card) covers the cost of seeing the doctor, but you may not realize it also covers so many other important services, supports and products you need to keep your child safe and healthy at home!

What Can Your Medicaid Card do for You?

Here’s a description of some of the Medicaid covered items and services that are most helpful for families who have children and teens with disabilities.

**Personal Care Services**: Medicaid can pay for someone to help your child with daily living activities in your home. This can include help with feeding, bathing, toileting, dressing, meal preparation and laundry. Your family will work with a Home Health or Personal Care Agency in your area to find and hire the workers who will come into your home. Our [Fact Sheet on Personal Care Services](#) has more detail on this benefit.

**Non-Emergency Medical Transport**: Medicaid can pay for, and make arrangements for, transportation to medical and therapy appointments. You can also ask for reimbursement if you drive your own car to appointments. You’ll need to contact [Medical Transportation Management (MTM)](http://mtm-inc.net/Wisconsin), to schedule rides or request mileage reimbursement. Schedule rides at least two days in advance and, if it’s your first time using this service, or you’re in a rural area, allow as much as two weeks for scheduling. For more details see our [Medicaid and Transportation Fact Sheet](#).

**Diapers and other Incontinence Supplies**: Starting when your child turns age 4, Medicaid will cover the cost of diapers and other related supplies like disposable pads, liners and gloves. (Wipes are not included as a Medicaid benefit.) You will need to work with [J & B Medical Supply](#) to have these items shipped directly to your home. Our [Fact Sheet on Diapers and Incontinence Supplies](#) has more detail about this.

**Over-the-Counter Medications**: Medicaid can be used to cover the cost of products that you typically buy at a pharmacy. Things like vitamins, laxatives, ointments, iron supplements and melatonin can be covered if your child’s doctor has prescribed them. These supplies will most likely be covered under the [HealthCheck “Other Services”](#) (HCOS) Medicaid benefit. See our [HCOS Fact Sheet](#) to learn more.

Tip for Families:

For Medicaid to cover these items, you likely will need a prescription from your child’s doctor to document that the service is medically necessary (Definition: [HFS 101.03(96m), Wisconsin Administrative Code](#)). The provider may also need to submit a prior authorization request to Medicaid. See our Family Voices [Fact Sheet on Insurance Prior Authorization](#) for a complete explanation.
Medicaid is a really important health benefit for children and adults with disabilities. There are a lot of different ways for your child to qualify.

You might try imagining the doorways to Medicaid as all of the doors that lead to a large meeting room. Even though there are a lot of different doorways to that room, everyone ends up in the same meeting room. It’s the same with Medicaid; you may enter using different doorways, but they all lead to the same Medicaid benefits.

Your child may be eligible for Medicaid due to disability, due to your family’s income (or their own income if they are age 18 or older) or both disability and income. It’s important to remember that no matter which doorway to Medicaid you use, you’ll receive a ForwardHealth card, and have access to all Medicaid benefits!

There’s one rule that is true for any of these doorways though, you must be a US citizen to qualify for Wisconsin Medicaid and if you are applying only for your child, he or she has to be a US citizen.

Is My Child Eligible for Medicaid?

Disability: An example is by qualifying for the Katie Beckett Program. This is the only Medicaid doorway that doesn’t look at your family’s income to qualify. You will work with your county on a Functional Screen that will decide whether your child qualifies. A fee, or parent cost share, may be due each year.

Income: An example is the BadgerCare Plus Program. You can apply online at Access.wi.org. Eligibility for BadgerCare Plus is based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and compared to your family’s size and income. Your child does not need a diagnosed disability to be eligible.

Disability and Income: An example is Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI is a federal program that provides a monthly check and gives families and children access to Medicaid. To start the application process for SSI, see the Social Security Administration’s Disability Starter Kit.

Learn more about Medicaid with our newest training, Medicaid Made Easy at familyvoiceswi.org/learn.

Advocacy for Change 2020
Thursday, March 12, 2020
Madison Concourse Hotel

Registration Opens Mid-January

2020 is the year to build your confidence and learn how YOU can impact policy and systems change!

Connect with others, hear from disability experts and meet face-to-face with your elected officials.

Scholarships are available to participate for parents, family members and siblings.

To learn more visit familyvoiceswi.org/advocacy-for-change

“I was very inspired by the advocacy stories and asks my group made.”
“I loved networking and connecting and sharing our resources.”
“Past AfC Participants”
Are you sending holiday cards to friends and family this season? This is a wonderful opportunity to add your elected officials to your mailing list. Your card will introduce yourself and your child with special needs, and including a picture of your family will help put a face to your message. Then, in one or two simple sentences, you can remind these public servants that you are a constituent and that you intend to vote in 2020. You might also mention that your family wants to sustain state and local funding for the programs and services that impact your child, as well as other children in Wisconsin. If you need the name and contact information for your state legislators please visit legis.wisconsin.gov and enter your home address into “Who Are My Legislators?” If you want to include cards to your Members of Congress, their contact information can be found at usa.gov/elected-officials or contactingcongress.org.

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Family Voices Online Trainings

Have some downtime over the holidays? Why not get up to speed on supports and services for your child or teen with special needs—without getting out of your PJs. Start by watching some of our online training sessions. You can learn to be an advocate for your child and family or spend some time with a training on navigating Medicaid. Our online sessions are all on our website, familyvoiceswi.org/learn. And if face-to-face trainings are more your speed, the calendar on the Learn page will let you know what’s coming up.

- **What’s After High School?**
  Learn about the transition to adult life for youth with disabilities and special health care needs.

- **Medicaid Made Easy**
  Gives you a solid understanding of Medicaid programs for children and how they’re funded.

- **Did You Know? Now You Know!**
  Explains all the resources and services for children with disabilities and special health care needs from birth through young adulthood.

- **Coordinating Your Child’s Health Care**
  This training was created to help you partner with your child’s care team.
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Do you have a new email address?

Did your organization move to a new office?

Didn’t you buy a new phone?

We want to be sure that you keep getting our newsletters and other important information for your family. Please let us know if your contact information needs to be updated. Email info@fvofwi.org or enter the changes on the Connect page of the Family Voices website.

Thank you!

About Family Voices
If you have a child with a disability or special health care need, you’ve come to the right place! We’re here to help you navigate the services available to your family. It’s a complicated system and our goal is to provide you and your family with some tools. Connect with other families, learn how to advocate for your child, and discover how you can be a voice for all children with special needs.