



Children's Defense Fund

Child Health Plus A FACT SHEET

Child Health Plus A, sometimes called Children's Medicaid, is a free, comprehensive health insurance program for low-income children 18 years of age or younger living in New York State. There are no co-payments or premiums for Child Health Plus A.

Child Health Plus A Benefits

Child Health Plus A offers children and teens comprehensive coverage for all of their health care needs even when the care is expensive or long term. Child Health Plus A coverage includes doctors visits, hospital and specialty care, prescription drugs, dental care and orthodontics, eyeglasses, mental health services, durable medical equipment, and much more. Child Health Plus A may also provide up to 90 days of retroactive coverage for unpaid medical bills.

How Health Care is Provided

Depending on where a family lives in New York, they may receive care through Child Health Plus A in one of two ways:

Fee-for-Service: Children can visit doctors, health centers, clinics, and hospitals that accept Medicaid to receive their health care. Children in fee-for-service will get a Medicaid card only.

Managed Care: Families select a health plan for their children. The children then visit the health plan's network of doctors, health centers, and hospitals. Children in a managed care plan will get a Medicaid Card and an insurance card from their health plan. *Note: Parents Should Keep the Medicaid Card! They will need this card for some services, like prescriptions.*

In most parts of New York, most children enrolled in Child Health Plus A are required to join a health plan. In some areas, families may choose to join a health plan or not.

Eligibility for Child Health Plus A

Many children in working and immigrant families are eligible for Child Health Plus A. Insured children may also be eligible. The Child Health Plus A eligibility requirements include:

- Age:** Must be 18 years of age or younger.
- Residency:** Must be a resident of New York State (no minimum length of time).
- Citizenship/Immigration Status:** Can be a U.S. citizen or an immigrant. *(Good news! There is no longer a 5 year waiting period preventing immigrants from participating in New York State's health insurance programs. Most immigrant groups are now eligible).*
- Income:** The family's income must fall at or below the following levels:

Monthly Income Levels for Child Health Plus A

This chart is only a guide. Families with incomes above these levels may still be eligible and should be referred to an enrollment counselor.

Family/ Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	Each Additional Child Add
Children Under 1 yr.	\$1,734	\$2,334	\$2,934	\$3,534	\$4,134	+ \$600
Children 1-5 yrs	\$1,153	\$1,552	\$1,951	\$2,350	\$2,749	+ \$399
Children 6-18 yrs	\$867	\$1,167	\$1,467	\$1,767	\$2,067	+ \$300

Children and teenagers 18 years of age or younger who are not eligible for Child Health Plus A because of their family's income or the child's immigration status can receive health coverage through Child Health Plus B. People 19 years of age and older may be eligible for Adult Medicaid or Family Health Plus. Children that live in families who make too much money for Child Health Plus A but have special health care needs may be eligible for other Medicaid programs. Call a local Medicaid Office for more information regarding these programs.

How to Sign Up for Child Health Plus A

A family can sign their child up for Child Health Plus A through a program called Facilitated Enrollment which uses community-based organizations, some health plans, and others to help with the enrollment process. Through this program, enrollment counselors are available to determine a child's eligibility for Child Health Plus A or B, help families fill out the application, gather the required documents, and ensure that the child becomes enrolled. The enrollment counselor also can help a family understand how managed care works, help the family choose a health plan, and even select a doctor. Families also can sign their children up at their local Medicaid office or Department of Social Services. *For help finding an enroller in your area call the Child Health Plus Hotline, 1-800-698-4543.*

Documentation Required to Apply:

When applying, families will need to prove the child's identity, age, residence, citizenship/immigration status, social security number, and the family's income. Enrollment counselors can help gather documents. Here are some examples of documents that can be used:

Proof of Identity and Age: Birth certificate, baptismal certificate, official photo I.D., driver's license, or official school records.

Proof of Residency: Official I.D. with address, utility bill, bank statement, lease, letter from landlord, official school records, or a postmarked envelop.

Proof of Family Income: Paycheck stubs (last four consecutive weeks), letter from employer, signed income tax return, benefit checks, or award letters.

Proof of Citizenship/Immigration Status (This is required for the applying child only): Birth Certificate, Legal Permanent Residency card ("green card"), Naturalization Certificate, Passport, Employment Authorization Card, or other INS forms.

Renewal/Re-certification for Child Health Plus A

Children are guaranteed coverage for approximately one year, even if the family's income changes. Before the year is over they will receive a pre-printed form and instructions in the mail explaining how to renew. Families can renew Child Health Plus A coverage through the mail, at a facilitated enrollment program, or at their local Medicaid office. It is important for consumers to follow all the directions in their renewal package and to return it by the date listed on their form. If people do not renew on time, they may lose their health insurance coverage.

**For more information call:
Child Health Plus Hotline, 1-800-698-4543
Or 1-877-898-5849 (TTY line for hearing impaired)**

Materials Prepared

by

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