

Is My Family Eligible?

Your family's eligibility depends on many factors, including family size and income.

Your child/children might be eligible if they are under age 19, and your family's monthly income is under this amount:

Family Size	2	3	4	5	6
Income	\$2429	\$3052	\$3675	\$4299	\$4922

You might be eligible if you are pregnant and your family's monthly income is under this amount:

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5
Income	\$1670	\$2247	\$2823	\$3400	\$3976

You and your children might be eligible if your children are under 18 and your family's monthly income (after taxes) is under this amount:

Family Size	2	3	4	5	6
Income	\$293	\$368	\$443	\$518	\$593

The information in this brochure, including eligibility, is merely a guide. If you are not sure whether your income is under these amounts, or if your family size does not appear above, or if you are not sure how many people count as part of your family, you should APPLY to find out if you are eligible.

Why Apply?

You may be able to get FREE or low-cost healthcare for your children. Even if your children are healthy, you should enroll to keep them healthy.

What Healthcare Services Can I Get?

- doctor visits
- annual physical examinations
- surgery
- vaccinations
- dental visits
- prescription drugs
- mental health services
- eyeglasses
- prenatal and pregnancy-related care
- family planning services (contraception and sterilization)
- hospital visits

Who Can Get Health Benefits?

People in the following groups are eligible if they meet income requirements:

- Children up to age 19
- Parents, until their youngest child turns 18
- Foster children under age 21
- Pregnant women

To receive these benefits, a child must be a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant. BUT, as a parent or guardian, you do not need to prove that you are a citizen or in the country legally unless you are also applying for benefits for yourself.

How to apply for Mississippi Healthcare Benefits



Mississippi has programs that can provide FREE or low-cost healthcare for your child. Even if your children are healthy, you should enroll to keep them healthy. This brochure explains what you will need to apply.

If you are over 65, blind, or disabled, you may also be able to get Medicaid. Please contact your regional Medicaid office for more information and advice.

Mississippi Center for Justice is dedicated to advancing racial and economic justice. The Center combines legal services with policy advocacy, community education and media advocacy. The Center's campaigns are creating better futures for low-wealth Mississippians and communities of color in the areas of educational opportunity, financial security, access to healthcare and child care, affordable housing and community development. For more information, visit www.mscenterforjustice.org or call (601) 352-2269.

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How Do I Apply?

You can apply in person or you can mail your application. To get an application, go to your regional office, call 1-800-421-2408 to have one mailed to you, or look online at: <http://www.dom.state.ms.us/Eligibility/ChipApp03182005.pdf>.

The Interview

You must attend an **in-person interview** with a Medicaid worker. If you apply in person, that counts as your interview. If you apply by mail, you must go to a Medicaid office for the interview. **Only one adult from your family needs to go to the interview—you do not need to bring your children.**

REMEMBER!

You do not have to prove that you are a citizen or in the United States legally to get benefits for your child (if your child is a citizen or legal resident).

What to Bring to Apply For Your Child

Photo I.D.

You need a photo I.D. for each child over 16. This can be a driver's license or state I.D. card.

Social Security Number

You need to know your child's social security number. You do *not* need to bring your child's social security card.

Proof of Your Family's Income

You must provide proof of your income.

If you have a job, bring a statement (such as a pay stub) showing a full month's income from the month prior to when you are applying. You must show your income from the beginning to the end of the month.

If you have no documents showing your income, bring a statement from your employer explaining how much you are paid.

If you are unemployed, bring proof of your unemployment compensation benefits OR a statement from whoever supports you stating that you have no income.

If you are self-employed, bring your monthly profit-and-loss statement.

If you are self-employed through an incorporated business, bring proof of your corporate and personal taxes.

What to Bring to Apply for Yourself

Applying for yourself is similar to applying for your children. You'll need:

- **Photo ID if you are over 16**
- **Social Security Number**
- **Proof of Your Family's Income**

Redetermination

- If you receive benefits, you will need to reapply each year — this is called “redetermination.”
- Don't miss your appointment for redetermination. If the Medicaid office provides you with an appointment time that you cannot make, call or visit the office to reschedule your appointment. If you miss your appointment, you risk losing your child's Medicaid coverage.
- If you move, be sure to notify your Medicaid office so that they can let you know when it's time for your redetermination.

Reasons to be Insured

Why is health insurance for children and teens important?

Children who have health insurance generally have better health throughout their childhood and into their teens. They are more likely to:

- Receive needed shots that prevent disease
- Get treatment for recurring illnesses such as ear infections and asthma
- Get preventive care to keep them well
- Get sick less frequently
- Get the treatment they need when they are sick
- Have better attendance at school, and do better at school

How does having health insurance affect my child's ability to learn?

Children who have health insurance have a better chance of being healthy. Having health insurance will allow you to give them the medical care necessary for them to stay healthy and focus on their studies. Children with health insurance are less likely to miss school because they are sick. By helping them go to school every day ready to learn, you can help boost your child's performance in school today and in the future.