Medicaid 101

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Learning Objectives (Part 1)

1. What is Medicaid?
2. Services that Medicaid covers
3. Role of Medicaid for services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) (eligibility for Community Pathways Medicaid Waiver)
4. Common Medicaid coverage groups for people with disabilities
5. Eligibility criteria for each coverage group

Learning Objectives (Part 2)

6. Transitioning among Medicaid coverage groups (when eligibility for one group ends, how to enroll in another group to retain Medicaid and the Community Pathways Waiver)
7. Interaction between Medicaid and Medicare
8. Impact of the Big Bill on Medicaid
9. How to get help with Medicaid issues from Benefits Planners

Question 1

- Medicaid is a government medical benefit that provides comprehensive health coverage for certain groups of people who meet financial limits.
- True or False?

Answer 1

- Medicaid is a government medical benefit that provides comprehensive health coverage for certain groups of people who meet financial limits.
- True.
  - Medicaid is jointly funded by the federal and state government.

Question 2

- In Maryland, Medicaid is also known as “Medical Assistance”.
- True or False?

Answer 2

- In Maryland, Medicaid is also known as “Medical Assistance”.
- True
  - But Medicaid is different from Medicare

Question 3

- To be eligible for Medicaid, a person must:
  - Be a member of a certain large category of people (such as people who are disabled or at least age 65), AND
  - Fit the criteria for a specific pathway to Medicaid (such as by receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI))
- True or False?

Answer 3

- To be eligible for Medicaid, a person must:
  - Be a member of a certain large category of people (such as people who are disabled or at least age 65), AND
  - Fit the criteria for a specific pathway to Medicaid (such as by receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI))
- True
  - Each pathway to Medicaid is called a “Medicaid coverage group” or “Medicaid eligibility group”.

Question 4

- How many Medicaid coverage groups does Maryland have?
  1. 14
  2. 23
  3. 42
  4. 60

Answer 4

- How many Medicaid coverage groups does Maryland have?
  1. 14
  2. 23
  3. 42
  4. 60 **CORRECT**
- Luckily, only a handful of these groups are commonly used by adults with disabilities.

What Services Does Medicaid Cover? (Part 1)

- Medicaid covers many health services, including:
  - Ambulance and wheelchair van services and emergency medical transportation
  - Ambulatory surgical center services
  - Clinic services
  - Diabetes care services
  - Family planning services and supplies
  - Hearing aids
  - Home health agency services

What Services Does Medicaid Cover? (Part 2)

- Medicaid covers health services, including:
  - Hospice care
  - Hospital inpatient and outpatient services (acute, chronic, psychiatric, rehabilitation, specialty)
  - Kidney dialysis services
  - Laboratory and x-ray services
  - Medical day care services
  - Medical equipment and supplies
  - Mental health treatment, case management, and rehabilitation services

What Services Does Medicaid Cover? (Part 3)

- Medicaid covers health services, including:
  - Nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, and nurse practitioner services
  - Nursing home services
  - Oxygen services and related respiratory equipment services
  - Personal care services
  - Pharmacy services
  - Physical therapy
  - Physician services

What Services Does Medicaid Cover? (Part 4)

- Medicaid covers health services, including:
  - Podiatry services
  - Statewide Evaluation and Planning Services (STEPS) through local health departments
  - Substance abuse treatment services
  - Transportation services to Medicaid covered services (through local health departments)
  - Vision care services (eye examination every two years)

What Services Does Medicaid Cover? (Part 5)

For people under age 21, Medicaid also covers:

- Dental services and dentures
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Services
- Eye glasses
- Private duty nursing
- School-based health-related services

What About Services from DDA?

- Medicaid also covers services from the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).
- For Medicaid to cover DDA services, a person must:
  1. Have Medicaid, AND
  2. Enroll in a funding arrangement called the Community Pathways Waiver

What Is the Community Pathways Waiver?

- A funding arrangement that provides services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the community rather than in institutions
- Administered by the DDA
- Before October 6, 2025, DDA also administered the Community Supports Waiver and the Family Supports Waiver, but these were rolled into the Community Pathways Waiver on October 6, 2025.
- The state and federal government each pay about 50% of service costs.

Question 5

- To get services from DDA through the Community Pathways Waiver, a person must receive SSI.
- True or False?

Answer 5

- To get services from DDA through the Community Pathways Waiver, a person must receive SSI.
- False
  - It's a common myth that a person must receive SSI – and the Medicaid it provides - to enroll in the Community Pathways Waiver.
  - A person must have Medicaid to get into the Community Pathways Waiver, but there are several different Medicaid coverage groups they can use, not just SSI.

Which Key Medicaid Coverage Groups Are Compatible with the Community Pathways Waiver? (Part 1)

1. SSI recipients (code S02)
2. Disabled Adult Children (DACs) who formerly received SSI (code S19)
3. 1619(b) (code S02)
4. Adult MAGI (code A02, A03 or A04)
5. Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) (code S13-D)
6. Special Waiver group (code H01)

Which Key Medicaid Coverage Groups Are Compatible with Each Medicaid Waiver? (Part 2)

NOTE: Each Waiver is compatible with a few additional coverage groups, but these would rarely apply to people in the Waivers.

Question 6

- To be eligible for a Medicaid coverage group, a person must meet certain financial limits.
- True or False?

Answer 6

- To be eligible for a Medicaid coverage group, a person must meet certain financial limits.
- True
  - Every Medicaid group except one has a limit on income
  - Most Medicaid groups that are compatible with the Waiver have limits on resources

Income vs. Resources

- Income is money a person receives during a month.
- A resource is money that a person received during a previous month, but still has in the current month.
- Resources are measured on the 1st day of each calendar month.
- Only the “countable” portion of income and resources are counted.

Resources (Part 1)

- Countable resources include:
  - Cash
  - Bank accounts
  - Stocks
  - Bonds
  - CDs
  - Money market accounts
  - Retirement accounts (for most Medicaid groups)
  - Real estate (other than primary home)

Resources (Part 2)

- Some resources that **DON'T** count:
  - Primary home the person lives in
  - One car
  - ABLE accounts
  - Special needs trusts
  - Business bank accounts
  - Assets used in a trade or business

Who Is Eligible for the 6 Key Medicaid Coverage Groups?

1. SSI recipients (code S02)
2. Disabled Adult Children (DACs) who formerly received SSI (code S19)
3. 1619(b) (code S02)
4. Adult MAGI (code A02, A03 or A04)
5. Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) (code S13-D)
6. Special Waiver group (code H01)

SSI Recipients

- People who receive SSI payments are automatically eligible for Medicaid in Maryland.
- A person is eligible for SSI who:
  1. Has a severe disability that meets Social Security's criteria
  2. Has "countable" income under $994 per month for an unmarried person in 2026
  3. Has "countable" resources under $2,000
- Countable income includes almost all of "unearned" income (such as Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits) and less than half of earned income (such as wages or self-employment income)
- Apply to Social Security Administration

Disabled Adult Children (DACs) Who Formerly Received SSI

- To qualify, a person must:
  1. Have previously received SSI payments based on disability
  2. Have begun to receive a Social Security Disabled Adult Child (DAC) benefit or DAC benefit increase
  3. Have had SSI payments stop due to the DAC benefit or DAC benefit increase
  4. Would be eligible for SSI payments if not for the DAC benefit or DAC benefit increase that stopped the SSI payments
- Apply to Social Security Administration

1619(b) (Part 1)

- 1619(b) is a rule that enables a person who has earned income too high to receive SSI payments to remain eligible for SSI.
- 1619(b) continues Medicaid eligibility AND
- Lets the person get SSI payments back quickly if their work later stops or their earnings drop low enough

1619(b) (Part 2)

- To qualify, a person must:
  1. Have previously received SSI payments
  2. Have SSI payments stop due to earned income
  3. Have earned income below a certain threshold ($62,929 per year in Maryland in 2026), or in many cases, have income below a higher threshold
  4. Be otherwise eligible for SSI (countable resources under $2,000; countable unearned income under $994 per month; not medically improved; also must need Medicaid)
- Apply to Social Security Administration

Adult MAGI

- To qualify, a person must:
  1. Be 19 – 64 years old
  2. Not be eligible for Medicare
  3. Have family income (all taxable income plus nontaxable Social Security benefits) under 138% of federal poverty level for family size
     - $1,835 per month for 1 person
     - $2,489 per month for 2 people
  4. No resource limit
  5. No disability required
- Apply at marylandhealthconnection.gov

Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID)

- To qualify for EID, a person must:
  1. Be 16 – 64 years old
  2. Meet Social Security's medical definition of disability for adults (e.g., receive SSDI)
  3. Work for pay
  4. Have countable resources under $10,000
  5. Pay a monthly premium of $0 - $55 for most people
- EID has no income limit
- See application information at https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/eid/Pages/Home.aspx

Special Waiver Group (Part 1)

- This group is the fallback option for people enrolling in (or enrolled in) the Community Pathways Waiver who do not qualify for one of the other allowable Medicaid groups.
- To qualify, a person must:
  1. Be enrolling in or enrolled in the Waiver
  2. Meet Social Security definition of disability
  3. Have countable income under 3 times the maximum SSI benefit for an individual ($994 x 3 = $2,982 per month in 2026)
  4. Have countable resources under $2,500

Special Waiver Group (Part 2)

- Countable income is calculated similarly to the SSI rules – almost all of unearned income and less than half of earned income counts
- Apply through Eligibility Determination Division (EDD) as part of Waiver application process

Question 7

- If a person enrolled in a Waiver loses eligibility for their current Medicaid group, they will lose eligibility for both Medicaid AND the Waiver.
- True or False?

Answer 7

- If a person enrolled in a Waiver loses eligibility for their current Medicaid group, they will lose eligibility for both Medicaid AND the Waiver.
  - False
  - If the person is eligible for a different Medicaid group that is compatible with the Waiver, they can transition to that group and keep Waiver eligibility.

Example 1 (Part 1)

- Marisol receives SSI payments and Medicaid and is enrolled in the Community Pathways Waiver.
- She starts a full-time job earning $48,000 per year ($4,000 per month).
- Her SSI payments stop due to her income.
- She still has less than $2,000 in countable resources, is otherwise eligible for SSI and needs Medicaid.

Example 1 (Part 2)

- Is Marisol still eligible for the SSI recipients Medicaid group?

Example 1 (Part 3)

- Is Marisol still eligible for the SSI recipients Medicaid group?
- Answer: No. Her countable income is too high to get SSI payments.

Example 1 (Part 4)

- Is she eligible for a different Medicaid group? If so, which one?

Example 1 (Part 5)

- Is she eligible for a different Medicaid group? If so, which one?
- Answer: Yes. 1619(b).

Example 1 (Part 6)

- If Marisol switches to the 1619(b) group, will she still be eligible for the Community Pathways Waiver?

Example 1 (Part 7)

- If Marisol switches to the 1619(b) group, will she still be eligible for the Community Pathways Waiver?
- Answer: Yes. The 1619(b) group is compatible with the Community Pathways Waiver.

Example 2 (Part 1)

- Mahmoud receives SSDI payments of $2,850 per month.
- His countable resources are $1,500.
- He is not working.
- He is enrolling in the Community Pathways Waiver.

- Which Medicaid group is he eligible for?

Example 2 (Part 2)

- Which Medicaid group is he eligible for?
- Answer: Special Waiver Group

Example 2 (Part 3)

- Mahmoud starts a part-time job earning $1,000 per month gross wages.
- He still receives $2,850 per month SSDI.
- He still has $1,500 in countable resources.

- Is he still eligible for the Special Waiver Medicaid group?

Example 2 (Part 4)

- Is he still eligible for the Special Waiver Medicaid group?
- Answer: No. His countable income is more than $2,982 per month.

Example 2 (Part 5)

- Is he eligible for a different group? If so, which one?

Example 2 (Part 6)

- Is he eligible for a different group? If so, which one?
- Yes. EID.

Example 2 (Part 7)

- If Mahmoud switches to the EID group, will he still be eligible for the Community Pathways Waiver?

Example 2 (Part 8)

- If Mahmoud switches to the EID group, will he still be eligible for the Community Pathways Waiver?
- Yes. The EID group is compatible with the Community Pathways Waiver.

Using EID to Help a Person Qualify for the Community Pathways Waiver (Part 1)

- People who are not eligible for any of the other compatible Medicaid groups may be eligible for EID.
- EID is the only Medicaid group that has no income limit, and its resource limit is 4 or 5 times as high as the limits for most other compatible groups.
- If a person with a significant disability is working, they are likely eligible for EID; if they are not yet working, they will likely be eligible if they start paid work.
- EID can be an excellent pathway to Waiver eligibility.

Using EID to Help a Person Qualify for the Community Pathways Waiver (Part 2)

Example

- Christine receives $3,200 per month from SSDI and has total resources of $8,000.
- She needs services from the Community Pathways Waiver, but is not eligible for any of the Medicaid coverage groups that are compatible with the Waiver.
- Christine starts part-time work earning $1,200 per month gross wages. She is now eligible for EID – her resources are less than $10,000, she is working, and EID has no income limit.
- Christine enrolls in EID and now meets the Medicaid eligibility requirement for the Waiver.

Medicaid Eligibility Process for the Waiver

- The Eligibility Determination Division (EDD) determines Medicaid eligibility for people who are enrolling in (or enrolled in) the Community Pathways Waiver.
- They determine eligibility for the Special Waiver group and they verify enrollment in the other coverage groups that are compatible with the Waivers.
- If a person is enrolled in one of the other compatible coverage groups, they do not need to be evaluated for the Special Waiver group.
- If the person is not enrolled in one of the other coverage groups, then EDD evaluates them for the Special Waiver group.

How to Find Out a Person's Medicaid Coverage Group (Part 1)

- If the individual receives long-term services and supports (including through the Waiver), the Maryland Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) tracking system lists their Medicaid coverage group.
- The Coordinator of Community Services (CCS) can find the coverage group in the LTSS system.
- A health care provider who participates in Medicaid can use the Eligibility Verification System (EVS) to determine a person's Medicaid coverage group.

How to Find Out a Person's Medicaid Coverage Group (Part 2)

- Alternatively, you can call 800-492-5231 and select option 2 to identify a person's coverage group, whether or not the person appears in the LTSS tracking system.
- You'll need the person's Medical Assistance number or Social Security number.
- You will need to explain that you are asking for the coverage group and code (e.g., SSI has a code of S02).

Interaction of Medicaid with Medicare (Part 1)

- A person who has received Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or a Disabled Adult Child (DAC) benefit for 2 years qualifies for Medicare.
- Medicare is federally-funded health insurance for people who are disabled or at least age 65.
- Medicare involves out-of-pocket costs for most people – premiums, deductibles and coinsurance

Interaction of Medicaid with Medicare (Part 2)

- In Maryland, Medicaid wipes out almost all of the out-of-pocket costs for Medicare.
- A person who has Medicare and pays out-of-pocket costs, and who then enrolls in Medicaid, will save money.

How Will HR 1 Affect Medicaid? (Part 1)

- HR 1 (known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act) is making changes to Medicaid, including requiring some recipients to have their eligibility redetermined every 6 months (rather than annually), and to work at least 80 hours per month.
- However, the language of the law indicates that these requirements will apply only to the Adult MAGI group, and not the other 5 groups covered in this presentation.
- And even in the Adult MAGI group, people with significant disabilities will be exempt from the work requirement.

How Will HR 1 Affect Medicaid? (Part 2)

- HOWEVER, it is possible that some services funded by Medicaid may be reduced or eliminated.
- We won't know about possible service cuts until sometime after 2026.

How to Get Free Benefits Counseling for a Person Who Receives SSDI or SSI and Is Working or Seeking Work

- Call the Maryland Work Incentives Network (MD WIN) at 240-638-0071.
- If the person has a case open with the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), the DORS counselor is required to arrange benefits counseling.
- A benefits counselor can help with many Medicaid issues, including transitioning among Medicaid coverage groups.

Questions?