



PHONE NUMBERS OF COUNTY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICES:

SIMPLY

1. Call or visit your County Public Assistance Office for an "Application For Health Care Coverage" booklet.
2. You will then be given a **pre-screening interview**.
3. After the pre-screening interview you will receive an **intake appointment** and a **list of necessary documentation** to bring with you.
4. You will have to provide the County Public Assistance Office with **proof that you have applied for SSI**. If you have the appointment with SSI, but did not go to it yet, then give the date and time of the appointment to your pre-screening interviewer.
5. At the intake appointment, the worker will accept your Application (with Application for a Disabled Child written across the top) and documentation of your income, your insurance, your and your child's identification, your child's disability and other needed information.
6. If you have any retroactive needs, make sure you tell the worker and document them.
7. A Medical Review Team will then review the medical information.
8. If for any reason you are turned down, ask a supervisor what you need to re-apply.

Bradford
(570)265-9186

Carbon
(570)325-9540

Lackawanna
(570) 963-4525

Lehigh
(610) 821-6702

Luzerne
(570)826-2298

Monroe
(570)424-3030

Northampton
(610)250-1785

Pike
(570)296-6114

Schuylkill
(570)621-3000

Sullivan
(570)946-7174

Susquehanna
(570)278-3891

Tioga
(570)724-4051

Wayne
(570)253-7100

Wyoming
(570)836-5171



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Pennsylvania offers a full continuum of mental health treatment services and supports for children who have serious emotional, behavioral or mental disorders. Children's mental health treatment services range from nonrestrictive outpatient treatment to more intensive treatment services, such as partial hospitalization programs, mobile therapy, therapeutic staff support, case management, and family home based. Most of these services can be provided to a child and their family in their home, school, or anywhere in the community that the child needs help. If a child with serious emotional, behavioral or mental disorders has exhausted community treatment options and is still in need of service, he/she can access more restrictive out-of-home placements such as a community residential rehabilitation, which is a therapeutic foster home or group home, or the more restrictive long-term services of a residential treatment facility or the most restrictive mental health service, psychiatric hospitalization.



Toll Free at 1-877-315-6855
www.theadvocacyalliance.org

FUNDING FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Pennsylvania, as part of the continuum of children's treatment services, offers all families' access to Medical Assistance funding that can be utilized for children's mental health services that are not covered by regular medical insurance. If a child meets Medical Assistance/Social Security disability standards, he/she can access the more intensive treatment services if the services are deemed medically necessary.

Many of the regular medical insurances pay for outpatient treatment (least restrictive) and psychiatric hospitalization services (most restrictive) only, although some may offer limited coverage on the more intensive children's mental health services. Most regular medical insurances do not cover the intensive mental health services provided in the child's surroundings of home, school, and community, or any of the out-of-home treatment services.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PRIMARILY FUNDED THROUGH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

- Behavioral Health Rehabilitation (Wraparound) Services
 - Mobile therapy
 - Therapeutic Staff Support
 - Behavioral Consultant Specialist
- Partial Hospitalization Programs
- Case Management
- Family Home Base
- Community Residential Rehabilitation Services (CRR, therapeutic foster care)
- Residential Treatment Facility (RTF)

STEPS TO APPLY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR CHILD

1. Call or visit your local County Public Assistance Office (see back page for listings of numbers, or look in the blue pages of your phone book). Make it clear that you are asking to apply for Medical Assistance for your child who has a disability. You will receive an "Application For Health Care Coverage" booklet. If there are any problems, please direct the staff at the Public Assistance Office to look at **Section 355.4** of their Handbook- **MA for Disabled Child Only**. You are required to complete the entire Application.
2. You can mail-in the Application and a screener will contact you to set up an over the phone pre-screen of the Application, or you can go to the office with your completed Application and do a pre-screen there. Before you mail-in or give your completed Application to the worker, write in large letters across the front of the Application "MA for Disabled Child". This alerts the worker at the County Public Assistance Office to the specific procedures needed for him/her to process your Application. If for any reason the worker tells you that you are not eligible because your family makes too much money, again refer the worker to **Section 355.4** and insist that you get an intake interview. Do not withdraw your Application.
3. The Public Assistance Office worker should give you an intake interview appointment and instruct you to contact the Social Security Office to determine if you meet the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) guidelines.
4. You can call the Social Security Office and interview by phone or you can go to the Social Security Office in person. If you meet the income guidelines, the Social Security Office will then decide if your child meets their disability standard, and if so, determine that your child automatically is eligible for MA. If your income exceeds the guidelines, you will be told this and referred back to the Public Assistance Office for your intake interview and to continue the process of qualifying your child for MA.

5. If you made your intake interview appointment by phone, you should receive by mail a list of documents to bring with you to the intake interview. If you made your appointment in person, you should be given the list. The information to be brought to the intake interview includes: medical; insurance (auto and health); identification; and financial. You will not be denied MA because you may already have insurance for your child.
6. At your intake interview you must present proof that you have already contacted the Social Security Office for your child. Bring information to the intake interview that verifies this, or bring the date and time of your upcoming appointment.
7. The Public Assistance Office will make a determination regarding your child's meeting the disability standard and qualifying for MA. They may approve it, ask for more documentation, or deny it. If it is denied, then ask to speak with a supervisor to find out what you can do to appeal the decision.

IMPORTANT

If your child's mental health provider has directed you to apply for MA, you will need to sign consents with your provider for the release of your child's medical records. The quicker the information is sent to the County Public Assistance Office, the sooner your child's Application will be processed.

Tell the Public Assistance Office worker if you have any retroactive needs, such as unpaid medical bills. The eligibility of MA starts **on the date the Office receives your Application**, and MA can cover 90 days back from your application if eligible. Please note page 7 of the Application.

One year after MA has been authorized for your child you will receive a reapplication document. It is important that you respond to this and re-apply immediately. This is standard and must be completed in order to continue receiving benefits.