

# MEDICAID EXPANSION



Alamance County  
Department of Social Services  
*Enhancing lives in our community...*



# Medicaid Expansion Law

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- Signed into Law on March 27, 2023
- Implementation tied into state budget bill
- Section 1.6(b) 108A-147.7 provides funding to local counties
- Budget bill set to become law without Gov. Cooper's signature
- DHHS urged by Gov. Cooper to set a go-live date

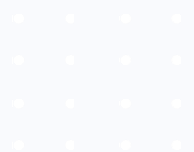




# Expanding Access

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- Beginning December 1, 2023, NC Medicaid will cover people aged 19 through 64 years with higher incomes. Many North Carolinians who did not qualify for health coverage through NC Medicaid before, may soon qualify.
  - An estimated 600,000 North Carolinians will be eligible
- Most people can get health care coverage through Medicaid if they meet the criteria below.
  - Resident of North Carolina
  - Age 19-64
  - U.S. citizen
  - And household income fits within established limits





# How To Apply



## ONLINE

A secure, self-service website at [EPASS.nc.gov](https://EPASS.nc.gov). When you apply online, you can avoid having to go in person to your local Division of Social Services (DSS) office.



## IN PERSON OR PHONE

If you can't apply online, you can apply in person at your local DSS office, by calling your local DSS office, or by mailing in a paper application available at [ncgov.servicenowservices.com](https://ncgov.servicenowservices.com).



## MAIL



# Medicaid: Current Workload Status

## Applications:

- On a monthly basis, Alamance County processes 500 - 800 Medicaid applications.
- Applications are either approved or denied. Case processing time is the same for both results.

## Annual Recertifications:

- As of September 2023, the Alamance Co. caseload of Medicaid benefits was 37,872 with 53,019 beneficiaries served within these cases.
- Based on current population totals, 30% of Alamance County residents are enrolled in Medicaid benefits.

Positions Descriptions	Total Current FTEs
Medicaid Eligibility Staff (IMC II)	41.0
Medicaid Trainer (IMC III)	3.0
Medicaid Supervisor (IMS II)	5.0
Total	49.0



# Medicaid: Projected Workload

State estimates, provided in April 2022, indicate 16,565 individuals here in Alamance Co that are eligible for Medicaid Expansion

- Requires both application processing and the reevaluation of individuals currently receiving in a lesser benefit program
- 11,733 of above total are new applicants
- Expansion totals will increase the current Medicaid caseload size by 22%

In general, Medicaid caseload increases by 4% each year.

- 2 year growth projections add 16,060 individuals to the current workload
- Increasing the percentage of residents receiving Medicaid to 39%

# Implementation Challenges

- Medicaid Expansion Policies were recently released to counties on October 25th
  - Medicaid Policies are very complex; on average it takes 6 to 9 months to see proficient knowledge in Medicaid determinations
  - Medicaid Expansion adds another program within each eligibility determinations
- Unfortunately, there is no way to predict the number of new applications the agency will receive due to Medicaid Expansion
  - Anticipate an influx initially
- Current workforce vs the number of new applications and redeterminations
  - Balance of completing applications and redeterminations accurately to avoid paybacks while ensuring timeliness

# State Assistance with Medicaid Expansion

## Straight Through Processing

- NC FAST stated to process applications, redeterminations and lesser benefit programs to Expansion coverage
- Counties state-wide continue to see low percentage of applications and redeterminations that are processed via the NC FAST - county staff complete these applications and redeterminations that have fallen out of straight-through processing
- Unsure if NC FAST will be able to complete the change over to Expansion coverage with no county involvement

## Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM)

- DHHS is currently pushing for legislation that would allow for the FFM to determine eligibility for NC Medicaid
- This option will not be available Day 1 of Medicaid Expansion implementation





# Medicaid Expansion Funding

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HB 76 Section 1.6(b) 108A-147.7

Counties will receive the following:

- For each month in FY 22-23 and FY 23-24; \$1,667,000
- For each quarter in FY 24-25; \$7,400,000
- For each quarter in FY 25-26: \$7,800,000
- For each quarter in subsequent FY's the amount shall be increased over the prior year's quarterly amount by the Consumer Price Index

# Expansion Funding Cont.

NC DHHS provided counties financial support to help meet the increased demands resulting from the end of the Public Health Emergency while also building county capacity to meet the increased workload from Medicaid Expansion.

- As a result, Alamance County received a one-time lump sum payment of \$130,378.00

Funds indicated in HB76:

- DHHS goal is to distribute equitably to assist all counties in acquiring the resources needed for the upcoming workload.
- All counties will receive a base payment of \$5,000 per month.
- Remaining allocation will be distributed based on percentage of existing Medicaid caseload.

Alamance = \$26,075.54

- Base = \$5,000
- Caseload Allocation = \$21,075.54

7 mth FY 24 Totals  
\$182,528.78

Annual Amount  
\$312,906.48

# Considerations of Staff Resources

8 Permanent Full-Time Income Maintenance Caseworker II

- 4 Permanent Full-Time FTEs
- 4 Time-Limited FTEs through June 2025

1 Permanent Full-Time Income Maintenance Caseworker III

1 Permanent Full-Time Income Maintenance Supervisor II

Expenditures	7-month	Annual
Income Maintenance Caseworker II (8 Positions)	\$276,521.84	\$474,037.44
Income Maintenance Caseworker III (1 Position)	\$35,674.33	\$61,156.00
Income Maintenance Supervisor II (1 Position)	\$38,098.67	\$65,312.00
Total Expenditures	\$350,294.84	\$600,505.44
Revenues	7-month	Annual
State Reimbursement 75/25 & 50/50	\$244,277.89	\$418,762.08
Additional Medicaid Expansion Funding	\$182,528.78	\$312,906.48
Total Revenues:	\$426,806.67	\$731,688.56

# How Can Our Community Help?

- Encourage applicants to use EPASS to submit applications - this will greatly reduce the foot traffic into our agency
- Share understanding and patience
  - Our staff will be working diligently to process applications and complete change in circumstances
  - There could be delays in processing due to the amount of applications being submitted.
  - We further work in an eligibility system that has latency issues, has downtime and may have workarounds that cause longer processing times.
  - Response times to phone calls and emails may be longer than normal due to the amount being received

