

## KATIE BECKETT MEDICAID



Wisconsin Medicaid coverage for children living at home who have:

- Developmental disabilities,
- Mental health needs, or
- Physical disabilities/chronic medical illnesses that create substantial limitations for the child in multiple daily activities.

### **Purpose of the Program**

Katie Beckett Medicaid is a special eligibility process that allows certain children with long-term disabilities, mental illness, or complex medical needs living at home with their families to obtain a Wisconsin ForwardHealth Medicaid card. Children who are not eligible for other Medicaid programs because the income or assets of their parents are too high may be eligible for Medicaid through Katie Beckett. A child may be eligible for this source of Medicaid even if they are currently covered under a private health insurance policy.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

In order to be eligible for Wisconsin Medicaid through Katie Beckett Medicaid, a child must meet **all** of the following criteria:

1. Be under 19 years of age;
2. Be disabled by standards in the Social Security Act;
3. Be a United States citizen or have acceptable immigration status;
4. Be a Wisconsin resident;
5. Live at home with their family;
6. Require a level of care at home that is typically provided in a hospital, nursing facility, or other institution;
7. Be provided safe and appropriate care in the family home;
8. Not have income in their name in excess of the current standards for a child living in an institution; and
9. Not incur a cost of care at home to the Wisconsin Medicaid Program that exceeds the cost Medicaid would pay if the child was in an institution.

### **Program Benefits**

If the child meets the Katie Beckett Medicaid eligibility criteria, which is determined through the application review process, the child will receive a ForwardHealth Medicaid card. This card can be used to pay for medically necessary services and equipment allowed under the Wisconsin

Medicaid Program. Information about how to use the card and covered services will be sent to parent(s) with the approval letter. This information is also available at the following webpage: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/>

All rules and benefits for card-covered services for the Wisconsin Medicaid Program apply to children who receive their card through Katie Beckett Medicaid. The Division of Medicaid Services' Bureau of Benefits Management administers the Medicaid Program and is responsible for ongoing assistance to families regarding coverage and benefit questions. The ForwardHealth member services toll free number is: **1-800-362-3002**.

### **The Application Process**

Parent(s) contact Katie Beckett Medicaid staff, called Eligibility Specialists, by calling 888-786-3246 or emailing [DHSKatieBeckett@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSKatieBeckett@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

The Katie Beckett Eligibility Specialist explains the program and assists the family in deciding whether Katie Beckett is the best Medicaid option for their child. If a parent decides to apply, they will receive an application packet. The Eligibility Specialist will set up a meeting with the parents to review the application materials, verify certain documentation, answer questions, and complete the functional screen. The screen gives the Eligibility Specialist a picture of a day in the child's life and determines if a child is functionally and financially eligible for Katie Beckett Medicaid. This is the first part of the two-part eligibility process.

The application is sent to the Disability Determination Bureau (DDB) for the second part of the eligibility determination. DDB does their own investigation into a child's needs to determine if they are disabled by Social Security Act standards.

A recertification of eligibility is required every year after the initial approval or whenever significant changes in the child's condition occur.



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Division of Medicaid Services  
Bureau of Children's Services  
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