



## Katie Beckett Program Overview for the Birth to 3 Program

The Katie Beckett Program allows certain children with long-term disabilities or special health care needs to obtain health care coverage under Wisconsin's Medicaid Program, without considering their parents' income or assets. A child enrolled in the Katie Beckett Program will receive the same services available to others enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid and the nonfinancial policies, rules, and regulations of Wisconsin Medicaid apply.

Wisconsin Medicaid personnel administer the program. Katie Beckett Program personnel determine eligibility for enrolling in the program.

Speech, physical, and occupational therapy are Wisconsin Medicaid services the Birth to 3 population uses the most. Children may be covered by their parent's insurance and still qualify for the Katie Beckett Program.

Children must meet all of the following criteria to become eligible for the Katie Beckett Program:

- Be under 19 years of age
- Be a U.S. citizen or have qualifying immigrant status
- Be a Wisconsin resident
- Be disabled by standards in the Social Security Act
- Live at home with their family
- Be provided safe and appropriate care in the family home
- Not incur a cost to the Wisconsin Medicaid program that exceeds the cost Medicaid would pay if the child were in an institution
- Not have income in their name in excess of the current standards for a child living in an institution
- Require a level of care typically provided in a hospital or nursing facility

There are four different levels of care a child could meet:

- **Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID):** A child who meets this level of care has a permanent cognitive disability, substantial functional limitations, and a need for active treatment.
- **Psychiatric Hospital:** A child who meets this level of care has a long-term, severe mental health condition diagnosed by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist. In addition, this child demonstrates persistent behaviors that create a danger to self or others, requiring ongoing therapeutic support in order to be able to live at home and in the community.
- **Nursing Home:** A child who meets this level of care has a long-term medical or physical condition that significantly diminishes his or her functional capacity and interferes with the ability to perform age-appropriate activities of daily living at home and in the community. This child requires an extraordinary degree of daily assistance from others to meet every day routines and special medical needs. The special medical needs warrant skilled nursing interventions that require specialized training and monitoring that is significantly beyond that which is routinely provided to children.

- **Hospital:** A child who meets this level of care has needs that are typically met in an inpatient medical hospital setting. The child’s medical needs must be chronic, persistent, and expected to last at least six months from the date of review. The skilled care needs cannot be acute and of a short-term duration.

Individual Family Service Plans, or IFSPs, can be very helpful in outlining substantial functional limitations when determining if a child meets a level of care. In addition, standardized testing by a skilled professional can identify significant limitations in cognition, learning, and communication.

Information in IFSPs that the Katie Beckett Program finds helpful includes the following:

- Does the child have physical characteristics that make dressing very difficult, such as contractures, extreme hypotonia, or hypertonia? Is the child able to roll, crawl, creep, stand, or walk?
- Does the child require adaptive equipment for bathing because they are unable to sit independently? This does not have to be specialized medical equipment.
- Does the child require more than one hour per feeding, receive tube feedings, or require more than three hours per day for feeding?
- Does the child know body parts on others or their own?
- Does the child offer a social smile?
- Does the child show an interest in what others are doing? Who do they like to be around?
- Does the child show an interest in multiple toys?
- Does the child startle or react to sudden, loud, or unexpected sounds?
- Does the child make any vocal sounds or words? Does the child imitate environmental sounds?

Additional information about the Katie Beckett Program can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/kbp](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/kbp).

Home visits are required for new Katie Beckett Program applicants. If a child is found eligible for the program, home visits are required every two to three years. An annual paper renewal form must be completed to stay enrolled in the Katie Beckett Program.

For more information about the Katie Beckett Program, parents can contact the consultant in the county where they live. County contact information is available under the “How to Apply” and “Consultants” links. Required forms as well as publications about the Katie Beckett Program are available under the “Forms and Publications” link.