

Medicaid Buy-in for Children - Another Opportunity to Get Medicaid for Your Child

Medicaid Buy-in for children became available for Texas families in January of this year. The program helps families who earn more than the typical Medicaid income limits by allowing them to "buy into" Medicaid coverage. There might be a month premium but it is based on your income, number of people in your family, and if you get insurance through work. Families with a child who meet SSI disability criteria and whose adjusted gross income is up to 300% of the federal poverty level (approximately \$66,700 for a family of four) may access the program.

Benefits offered through Medicaid Buy-in are the same as those available to any child with Medicaid coverage. These include doctor and hospital visits (including emergency care), prescriptions, dental care, mental health care, glasses, care in the home, speech, OT & PT therapies, case management, and regular checkups.

The child must be age 18 or younger and a U.S. citizen or legal resident. If the parent's employer pays at least half of the annual cost of health insurance, the parent must sign up and keep that insurance but the HIPP Program can help pay the premiums and Medicaid will become the secondary coverage. HIPP info: www.GetHIPPTexas.org or call 800-440-0493.

There are 3 ways to apply:

- 1) Visit the website: www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Help/HealthCare/Children/MBIC.html and download an application (the application link is under "How to Apply"). Fill it out and mail it in,
- 2) Call 211 and ask them to mail you a Medicaid Buy-in for Children application,
- 3) Go to an HHSC benefits office. Call 211 to find one near you.

You can also contact TxP2P and we can help you access the application or email you one.

June 2011