



Medicaid and Native American Women

What Is Medicaid?

Medicaid is healthcare for low-income individuals and families. It is a public program run by New Mexico's Human Services Department. Medicaid pays for the medical bills of those enrolled in the program and currently covers low-income individuals, children, pregnant women, the elderly and the disabled.

Why Should Native Americans Enroll In Medicaid When The Indian Health Service (IHS) Covers Our Health Care?

Has there ever been a health care service that you needed that your IHS clinic couldn't provide? If you become enrolled in Medicaid, it could pay for you to receive those services at another clinic or hospital. Plus, you can have Medicaid and still use IHS clinics for the services that they do provide.

Getting on Medicaid is not just good for you but also for your local clinic and your community. When you go to your IHS clinic and you are enrolled in Medicaid, the program will reimburse your IHS clinic for the cost of your services. This increases the amount of money going to fund your clinic. This means that your IHS clinic may be able to expand the services they provide and see more people in your community.

How Much Will Medicaid Cost?

Medicaid is currently a no-cost program if you are enrolled in a federally recognized tribe. If you are enrolled in your tribe, it will pay all of your medical bills. There are currently changes being proposed to Medicaid that would charge some recipients for Medicaid services. However, the proposal currently says that Native Americans will not be charged.

What Does Medicaid Cover?

Medicaid covers your doctor visits, your visits to a clinic, a hospital, or IHS provider. This includes:

- Preventative care like checkups,
- Most prescriptions
- ER care
- Behavioral health services
- Some specialty care

- Children's dental and vision
- Maternity care
- Family planning
- Hospital care
- Many more services

How Do I Enroll?

You can go to your local Income Support Division (ISD) office, call the Centennial Care number, or check to see if your local hospital or clinic has enrollment fairs or information. Your Indian Health Service clinic or tribal health clinic will also have patient benefits coordinators that can help you enroll.

For your nearest Income Support Division location, call 505-827-7250 or visit www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/.

There is more helpful information at: <http://www.bewellnm.com/native-american>

If you have issues accessing Medicaid, please contact the [Southwest Women's Law Center](#) at 505-244-0502