



AHCCCS Medical Services and ALTCS: Defining the Difference for People with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families

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The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Arizona's Medicaid agency, offers health care programs, including medical, behavioral and long-term care services to low-income Arizonans. To be eligible for any support under the AHCCCS umbrella, the applicant must be an Arizona resident, and a U.S. citizen or "qualified immigrant."¹ Income/resource limits and disability determination requirements vary by AHCCCS program. Two AHCCCS programs are frequently used by people with developmental disabilities—*AHCCCS Medical Services* and the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS).²

What are *AHCCCS Medical Services*?

AHCCCS Medical Services provide medical insurance for people with developmental disabilities that cover benefits such as:

- Doctors/specialists visits
- Prescriptions
- Hospital services
- Medical transportation
- Emergency care
- Rehabilitation services
- Behavioral health
- 90 days of nursing care services
- Surgery services
- Medical supplies

Individuals with developmental disabilities can become eligible for *AHCCCS Medical Services* through many programs, including:

- **SSI Cash:** automatically eligible if the person receives SSI (Supplemental Security Income). No premiums, but some co-payments may apply.
- **SSI-MAO:** if SSI not received, must meet income/resource limits and be deemed disabled by the Disability Determination Services Administration. Does not pay premiums, and some co-payments are required.
- **Families with Children:** for families with a "deprived" child, defined as the absence of at least one parent, or under- or unemployment when both parents are living with the child. Must meet income/resource limits. Co-payment may apply.
- **S.O.B.R.A. Child:** for children under age 19 who meet income limits that vary by age of the child. No co-payments or premiums required.



What is the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS)?³

While *AHCCCS Medical Services* pay for medical benefits for people with developmental disabilities, ALTCS goes a step further. ALTCS not only provides eligible individuals with *AHCCCS Medical Services*, it also pays for supportive services, such as in-home attendant care or costs of institutional living. Following is a partial listing of covered services:

- Skilled nursing care/assisted living
- Case management
- In-home attendants
- Home delivered meals
- Adult day care
- Home health care, including attendant care, respite care and therapies

To qualify for ALTCS, individuals may live at home, but they must be determined to be at risk for, or in immediate need of, an institutional level of care, if assistance is not provided through ALTCS. If income/resource limits are met, ALTCS members are not responsible for co-payments, but may need to pay part of their income for the cost of their care.

Sources

¹Lawful permanent residents who have held that status for five years or longer.

²Eligibility for *AHCCCS Medical Services* may be obtained through several different programs. For more information on these programs, applicant eligibility, other programs offered and covered services visit www.azahcccs.gov.

³For further information on ALTCS, visit the Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities' website at www.azdes.gov/ddd/