



## What is AHCCCS?

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is Arizona's Medicaid agency that offers health care programs, including medical, behavioral health and long-term care services to serve Arizona low-income residents, including those with developmental disabilities. The Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD) is required by Arizona revised statute to be the provider of services to persons with a developmental disability.

## How is it organized and funded?

Medicaid is Title XIX (Title 19) of the Social Security Act. The federal government pays approximately 67% of the cost of Medicaid services provided to persons eligible for AHCCCS health insurance programs. Arizona pays the remaining costs. AHCCCS operates its Medicaid program through a state plan—approved by the federal Medicaid agency. AHCCCS is required to administer Arizona's Medicaid program consistent with state law and federal Medicaid law, unless the federal government has "waived" compliance with a specific provision of the federal law.<sup>1</sup>



**AHCCCS must provide covered services for adults that are medically necessary, costeffective, not experimental, federally reimbursable and included in the AHCCCS state plan for Medicaid.**

## Of people with developmental disabilities, who is eligible?<sup>2</sup>

Eligible AHCCCS customers include those who are Arizona residents and have been diagnosed by DES/DDD with a cognitive disability, cerebral palsy, seizure disorder or autism, and have significant impairment in their functional abilities. For children less than six years of age, a diagnosis of developmental delay or the risk for developmental disability may serve as the qualifying diagnosis. The applicant must also fall under income limits (before taxes: \$903 for the applicant; or \$1,215 for the applicant and spouse).<sup>3,4,5</sup> The time frame to determine eligibility is up to 45 days, but if a disability determination is required, it may take up to

<sup>1</sup>Arizona Center for Disability Law, (2009, September), "Establishing Eligibility for Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Health Insurance: A Self-Advocacy Guide."

<sup>2</sup>For more information on eligibility and covered services, go to <http://www.azahcccs.gov/applicants/default.aspx>



90 days.

## What is covered?

Doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, etc. are included in the health plan to provide all AHCCCS covered services, including:

- Doctor's Visits
- Immunizations (shots)
- Prescriptions (Not covered if you have Medicare)
- Lab and X-rays
- Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Services for Medicaid eligible children under age 21
- Specialist Care
- Hospital Services
- Transportation to doctor
- Emergency Care
- Pregnancy Care
- Podiatry Services
- Surgery Services
- Physical Exams
- Behavioral Health
- Family Planning Services
- Dialysis
- Annual well women exams
- Glasses (for children under age 21)
- Vision Exams (for children under age 21)
- Dental Screening (for children under age 21)
- Dental Treatment (for children under age 21)
- Hearing Exams (for children under age 21)
- Hearing Aids (for children under age 21)

## What does it cost?

Those with developmental disabilities who qualify pay no monthly premiums. Very small co-payments may apply, but they are waived for some persons, including those served through ALTCS<sup>6</sup> or children under the age of 19.

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<sup>3</sup>These limits are current as of 08/11. Income limits change April 1st annually.

<sup>4</sup>For those that are working and have a disability, the Freedom to Work Program through AHCCCs allows under \$2,257 in monthly individual earnings, as of 08/11. Premiums are up to \$35 per month through this program.

<sup>5</sup>Income can be "spend-down" to reach the income limit to qualify for AHCCCS health insurance. To spend-down, you must have enough paid or billed medical expenses during a specific three-month period to reduce your total income to 40% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

<sup>6</sup>Arizona Long-Term Care System — provides in-home care and institutional services.