



DC Department of Health Care Finance Financial Eligibility for Home and Community Based Services



In order to receive Long Term Care (LTC) services and supports through the District's Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Programs (Elderly and Individual with Physical Disability (EPD) and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)), you must meet the income and resources eligibility requirements for the program. To qualify for HCBS, your gross monthly income must be at or below \$2,205.00 per month for 2017 and your total resources must be at or below \$4000.00 (household size one) or \$6000.00 (household size 2 - married couples). If you are married, we will determine your income and assets separately and not jointly to determine your eligibility.

What if my income is too high?

If your income is higher than \$2,205.00 a month, you are over the income limit for LTC Medicaid, but still may qualify for Medicaid by being placed on a Medically Needy Spend Down. To be eligible for Medically Needy Spend Down, you must be responsible for medical bills that meet a certain amount which is known as your "spend down amount". The spend down amount is determined by subtracting the medically needy income standard of \$642.83 from the applicant's or beneficiary's countable income amount. That amount is multiplied by 6 to determine the six month budget period spend down amount. To qualify for Medicaid under the Medically Needy Spend Down, the applicant's or beneficiary's unpaid and paid medical bills must equal the spend down amount.

See example below:

Example: Jane is over the income level for LTC Medicaid

Jane applied for Medicaid LTC Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver on January 2, 2017. She has a civil service retirement pension of \$2,500.00 per month. After allowing an unearned income disregard of \$20.00, Jane's countable income is \$2,480.00 per month.

Since Jane's countable income of \$2,480.00 is higher than \$2,205.00 per month limit, she will be placed on a Medically Needy Spend-Down. Jane's spend down amount is calculated as follows;

\$2480.00 (Applicant's monthly countable income)

- \$642.83 (Monthly medically needy income)

\$1,837.17

X 6 months

\$11,023.02 (Jan's medical bills must equal this amount to be eligible for Medicaid)

What medical bills can be used to meet your Spend-Down amount?

If you have bills that you are responsible for and will not be paid by a third party like Medicare, Tricare, etc. they can be used to meet your spend down amount.

The following bills can be used towards your spend down:

- Paid or unpaid Medical bills that you are responsible for in the past three months from the date of application; or
- Bills acquired during the six-month spend-down budget period; or
- Old bills that you are still responsible for making payment.

Some examples of medical bills that can be used to meet your spend down amount are:

- Doctor bills
- Prescription costs/ over the count medications
- Hospital/Urgent Care bill
- Durable Medical equipment(wheelchair, medical bed)
- Medically necessary supplies (adult diapers, needles, stripes)
- Medicare and health insurance premiums, deductions, and co-payments not paid by a third party
- Please refer to the *Frequently Asked Questions: Spend down* Fact Sheet for further information on what medical bills may be used to meet Spend Down.

Important: A person applying for HCBS waiver services cannot project his/her medical expenses to be used towards the individual's spend-down.

Example: Acceptable bills for spend-down

Jane's spend-down amount is \$11,023.02 (see above example). She has a medical bill from a surgery totaling \$12,000 which was incurred on December 15, 2016. Her medical bill exceeds her spend-down amount, therefore, she meets her spend-down obligation amount and approved for Medicaid from January 1, 2017-June 30, 2017.

What medical bills cannot be used for Spend Down?

A person cannot submit shelter cost/expenses such as rent, mortgage, cable, gas, electric or telephone bills to meet their spend down.

For More Information

If you have specific questions about Long Term Care Financial Eligibility or about the information on this fact sheet, please directly email the Department of Health Care Finance, Division of Eligibility Policy at DCMedicaidquestions@dc.gov.