



The Governor's Access Plan (GAP) will provide basic medical and targeted behavioral health care to approximately 20,000 uninsured Virginians with severe mental illnesses (SMI).

There are many diagnostic categories that contribute to a diagnosis of Serious Mental Illness. Some of the most common diagnoses include: major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and panic disorder.

More than 300,000 Virginians have had a serious mental illness in the past year. An estimated 50,000 individuals with SMI are uninsured<sup>1</sup>. And, on average, someone with a serious mental illness dies 25 years earlier than an individual without a SMI.<sup>2</sup>

By providing access to basic medical and behavioral health services, including doctor visits, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, lab work and pharmacy, it is expected that this demonstration will help stabilize GAP Demonstration participants, reducing the frequency of unnecessary Emergency Room (ER) visits and hospitalizations and reducing overall health care costs.

Individuals must meet ALL of the requirements outlined below to be eligible for GAP:

- Adult between the ages of 21 through 64 years old;
- U. S. Citizen or lawfully residing immigrant;
- Not eligible for any state or federal full benefits program including: Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP/FAMIS), or Medicare;
- Resident of Virginia;
- Household income that is below 95% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) plus a 5% income disregard (\$11,670 for a single adult);
- Uninsured; and,
- Not residing in a long term care facility, mental health facility, long-stay hospital, intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities, or penal institution.

If you have questions or comments, email them to: [BridgetheGAP@dmas.virginia.gov](mailto:BridgetheGAP@dmas.virginia.gov)

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Peter Cunningham, Virginia Commonwealth University, Health Policy Brief, July 2014

<sup>2</sup> Morbidity and Mortality in People with Mental Illness,

<http://www.nasmhpd.org/docs/publications/MDCdocs/Mortality%20and%20Morbidity%20Final%20Report%208.18.08.pdf>