Medicaid Overview

The mission of the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is improving the health and well-being of Virginians through access to high-quality health care coverage. In 2019, Virginia Medicaid celebrated its 50th anniversary and successfully oversaw the largest expansion in its history.

New eligibility rules elevated membership to more than 1.5 million. The vast majority of these individuals are being served through the two managed care programs, Medallion 4.0 and Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus.

Agency leaders responded to these historic changes by adopting data-driven, member-focused innovations, including a Medicaid Member Advisory Committee to provide feedback and ideas for current and future initiatives.

Medicaid Expansion

Virginia expanded the Medicaid program on January 1, 2019, a significant change in health care policy that was realized without the expenditure of state dollars. Today, more than 380,000 Virginia adults are enrolled and receiving services under the new eligibility rules. DMAS contracted with the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine to perform a survey of 1,505 new Medicaid members. Virginia is the first state to conduct a baseline survey of new members as part of its implementation of Medicaid expansion.

For more information on the impact of Medicaid Expansion, visit the Expansion Enrollment Dashboard at (www.dmas.virginia.gov/#/dashboard) and the Expansion Access Dashboard (www.dmas.virginia.gov/#/accessdashboard).
Maternal and Infant Health

The health of mothers and their children has been central to the mission of the Virginia Medicaid agency throughout its history. This commitment takes on new urgency today with rising maternal mortality rates and racial disparities in infant deaths across the nation. The agency is responding to this challenge with a series of initiatives to increase access to health coverage for women during prenatal and post-partum months when quality care is crucial.

Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services

Virginia Medicaid plays an essential role in providing access to lifesaving care for individuals with substance use disorder (SUD). The Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS) program is a key tool in achieving this goal through expanded community-based and short-term residential treatment options, increased provider reimbursements to encourage participation, and incentives to integrate medication for opioid use disorder (OUD) with behavioral and physical health supports.

Since the program launched two years ago, Virginia Medicaid has documented gains in access to care for its members, and treatment rates for SUD have more than doubled. Just as important, ARTS is driving improvements in the quality of care by emphasizing and rewarding evidence-based treatment and care coordination.

These strategies are contributing to improved outcomes, as documented by declines in emergency department visits and hospital admissions related to SUD.

Faces of Medicaid: Greg

Greg Wegener was a resident at The Healing Place, operated by CARITAS, when he enrolled in Medicaid. Greg was receiving the services he needed for his addiction to heroin, and his Medicaid coverage also gave him access to vision services that were critical to achieving his job goals. Greg now works at CARITAS and was promoted to peer mentor supervisor.

He is nearing completion of a peer recovery specialist certification course and plans to attend college to become a certified substance use counselor. “I feel my life is on the greatest path it can be on,” he said.

How to Apply for Medicaid

Call Cover Virginia at 1-855-242-8282 (TDD: 1-888-221-1590) -or- call the Virginia Department of Social Services Enterprise Call Center at 1-855-635-1370 (if applying for additional benefits)

Apply online at www.commonhelp.virginia.gov -or- apply online at the Health Insurance Marketplace www.healthcare.gov

Mail or drop off a paper application to your local Department of Social Services (note: may take longer than other methods)