



## Getting Medical Assistance for a Child (under 18)

### **What is Medical Assistance?**

Medical Assistance (MA) is a free, public health insurance program in Pennsylvania for adults and children who meet the eligibility requirements. In addition to covering standard medical benefits, it also covers services rarely covered by employer provided insurance such as Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (“wraparound”), in-home shift nursing, in-home personal care services, diapers, nutritional supplements, prescriptions and transportation to and from medical appointments. It also covers occupational, physical and speech therapy services without annual or lifetime caps often imposed by other insurance plans. Medical Assistance can be the child’s only insurance or it can be a secondary to other insurance coverage, covering those services, equipment or co-pays not covered by the child’s primary insurance.

### **What Insurance Companies Fall Within Medical Assistance?**

Once enrolled in Medical Assistance, you will receive an Access card. This card only identifies you as a Medical Assistance member. In order to receive medical benefits, you must also select a Medical Assistance HMO plan.

At the present time, **Theraplay, Inc. only accepts Keystone First.**

### **How to apply for Medical Assistance:**

1. The eligibility process for Medical Assistance for your child is handled through your County Assistance Office (CAO). Contact the CAO in your County to learn more about eligibility or if you have questions.
2. Complete application online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or call 1-800-986-5437. To navigate the online process:
  - After going to [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us), click apply for benefits
  - Click [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov) and go to Most Viewed
  - Click Application for Benefits
  - Go to Apply for Benefits – there are 3 options: On Line, In Person, Paper Application
  - We recommend clicking On Line using the COMPASS website for faster and simpler access
  - Go to Get Started Now and click apply for Healthcare Only
  - There is an option to Continue if you choose to complete on line. You can also choose to click download PDF forms to complete by mail or in person.
  - If you choose PDF forms, go to Printable forms, and choose Application for Healthcare Coverage for Medical Assistance for Family or CHIP – PA600CH.
3. If you completed a paper copy you must mail or drop off the application at your County Assistance Office. If dropping off at the County Assistance Office, ask for a receipt.
4. You will be asked to provide certain documentation to your County Assistance Office after the application has been filed.
5. Your child must meet the Social Security disability guidelines. It is not dependent upon parent or guardian income or assets.
6. Documentation needed for application process includes:
  - Your child’s birth certificate
  - Your child’s social security card
  - Proof of address (parent /guardian driver’s license)
  - Documentation of income in child’s name (not applicable if there is no income in their name)
  - Documentation of your child’s disability or condition – your child will NOT be examined. They will look at the documentation noting the problems or limitations. The disability standards consider the extent to which your child’s disability/condition limits their ability to perform basic functions appropriate to their age group.
  - Health insurance policy numbers (or copy of card if available) of any insurance under which child is covered.
  - Car insurance policy number (this is needed because car insurance often provides coverage of health care expenses related to an automobile accident)
  - Pay stubs or other documentation of parental/guardian income. Even though parental/guardian income does not count, documentation of that income is required by State law.